X

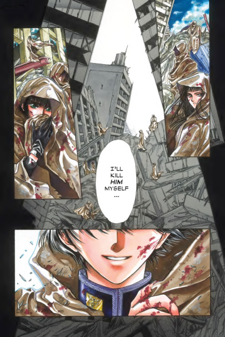
CLAMP

I 3·in·1

X

VOLUME 1, PART 1

THE STARTING ARROW I

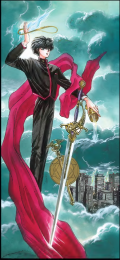

I'LL KILL *HIM* MYSELF ...

THEIR DESTINY WAS FOREORDAINED

X

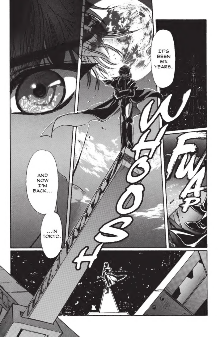
CLAMP

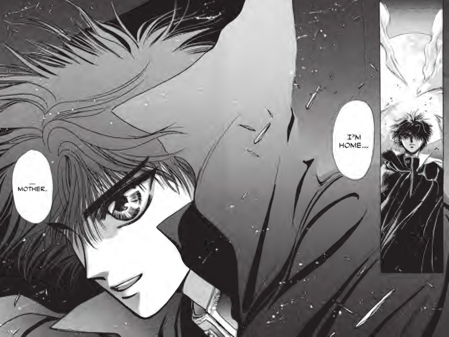
X

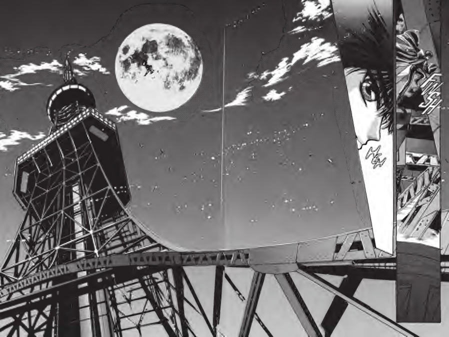


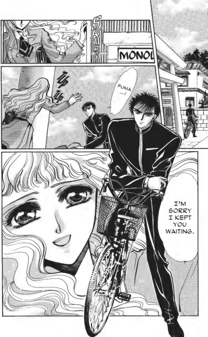
1 THE MAGICIAN

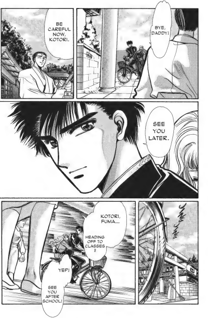
ב

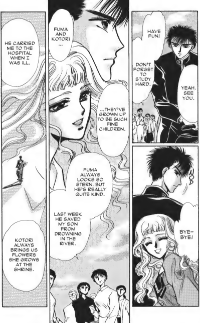

IT'S BEEN SIX YEARS.
WHOOSH
FWAP
AND NOW I'M BACK...
...IN TOKYO.

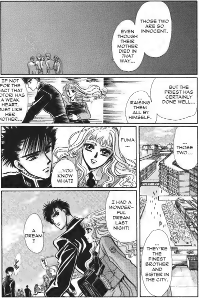

I'M HOME...
...MOTHER.

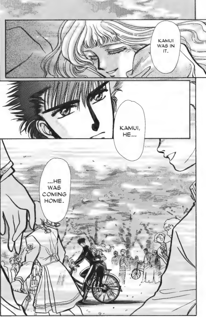

FWSH
HGH

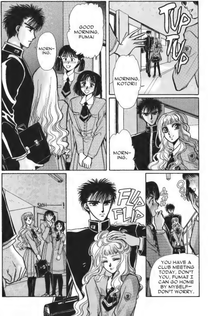

SKISH
MONO
TUP TUP
FUMA ...!
I'M SORRY I KEPT YOU WAITING.

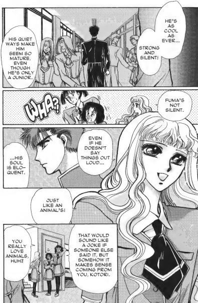

BYE, DADDY!
BE CAREFUL NOW, KOTORI.
SEE YOU LATER.
KOTORI, FUMA...
HEADING OFF TO CLASSES?
YEP!
SEE YOU AFTER SCHOOL!

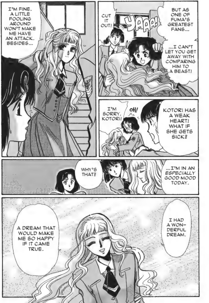

HAVE FUN!
DON'T FORGET TO STUDY HARD.
YEAH, SEE YOU.
NOD
BYE-BYE!
FUMA AND KOTORI...
...THEY'VE GROWN UP TO BE SUCH FINE CHILDREN.
FUMA ALWAYS LOOKS SO STERN, BUT HE'S REALLY QUITE KIND.
LAST WEEK HE SAVED MY SON FROM DROWNING IN THE RIVER.
HE CARRIED ME TO THE HOSPITAL WHEN I WAS ILL.
KOTORI ALWAYS BRINGS US FLOWERS SHE GROWS AT THE SHRINE.

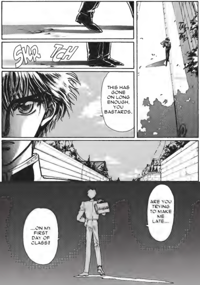

THOSE TWO ARE SO INNOCENT.
EVEN THOUGH THEIR MOTHER DIED IN *THAT* WAY...
BUT THE PRIEST HAS CERTAINLY DONE WELL...
...RAISING THEM ALL BY HIMSELF.
IF NOT FOR THE FACT THAT KOTORI HAS A WEAK HEART, JUST LIKE HER MOTHER...
...THOSE TWO...
...THEY'RE THE FINEST BROTHER AND SISTER IN THE CITY.
FUMA...
...YOU KNOW WHAT?
I HAD A *WONDERFUL* DREAM LAST NIGHT!
A DREAM?
HEY!
YO!

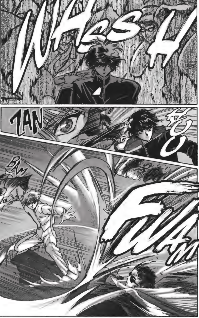

KAMUI WAS IN IT.
KAMUI, HE...
...HE WAS COMING HOME.

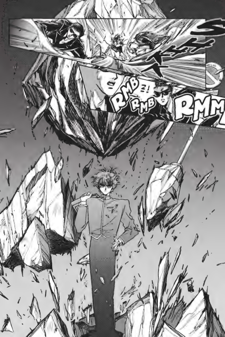

TUP
TUP
MORNING, KOTORI!!
MORNING.
GOOD MORNING, FUMA!
MORNING.
OOH!♡
AHH
YOU HAVE A CLUB MEETING TODAY, DON'T YOU, FUMA? I CAN GO HOME BY MYSELF—DON'T WORRY.
FLIP
FLIP
SIGH
!

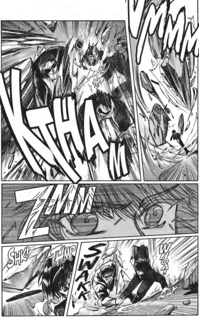

HE'S AS COOL AS EVER... STRONG AND SILENT!
HIS QUIET WAYS MAKE HIM SEEM SO MATURE, EVEN THOUGH HE'S ONLY A JUNIOR.
FUMA'S NOT SILENT.
WHA?!
EVEN IF HE DOESN'T SAY THINGS OUT LOUD...
...HIS SOUL IS ELOQUENT.
JUST LIKE AN ANIMAL'S!
THAT WOULD SOUND LIKE A JOKE IF SOMEONE ELSE SAID IT, BUT SOMEHOW IT MAKES SENSE COMING FROM YOU, KOTORI.
YOU REALLY LOVE ANIMALS, HUH?

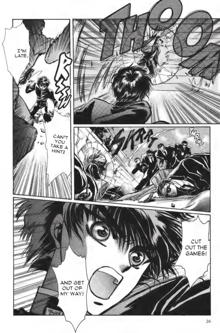

CUT IT OUT!
YAAA!
BUT AS ONE OF FUMA'S GREATEST FANS...
...I CAN'T LET YOU GET AWAY WITH COMPARING HIM TO A BEAST!
KOTORI HAS A WEAK HEART! WHAT IF SHE GETS SICK?
OH!
I'M SORRY, KOTORI!
I'M FINE. A LITTLE FOOLING AROUND WON'T MAKE ME HAVE AN ATTACK. BESIDES...
...I'M IN AN *ESPECIALLY* GOOD MOOD TODAY.
WHY'S THAT?
I HAD A WONDERFUL DREAM.
A DREAM THAT WOULD MAKE ME SO HAPPY IF IT CAME TRUE.

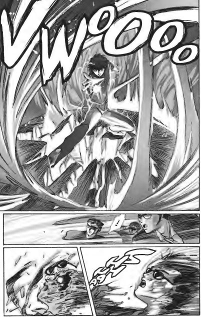

TAP
TAP
SKR TCH
THIS HAS GONE ON LONG ENOUGH, YOU BASTARDS.
ARE YOU TRYING TO MAKE ME LATE...
...ON MY FIRST DAY OF CLASS?

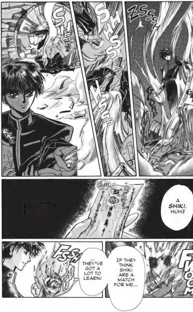

WHSSH
HUO
ZAN
BAM
FUAM

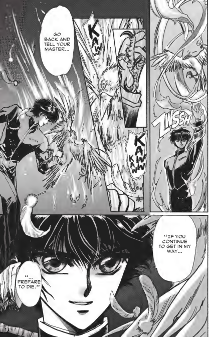

S
RMB
Z!
RMB
RMM

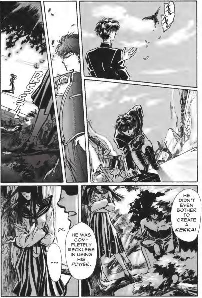

VMMM
KTHAMM
ZNMM
WHOA!
SWAKK
THMP
SHK!

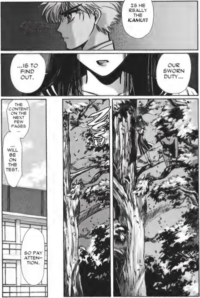

THOOM
SPLT
I'M LATE.
KSSH
SKRAA
TMP TAP
CAN'T YOU TAKE A HINT?
CUT OUT THE GAMES!
AND GET OUT OF MY WAY!

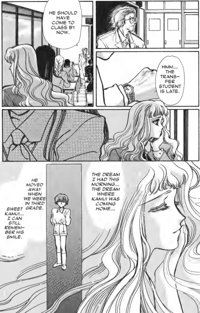

VWOOOO

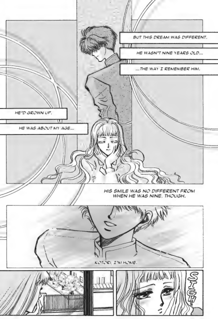

ZSSSH
GLORP
GLP...
SHHS
HSSS
SHHS
RSTL
A SHIKI, HUH?
RVVSL
RSTL
FWOOM
IF THEY THINK SHIKI ARE A MATCH FOR ME...
... THEY'VE GOT A LOT TO LEARN!
FSSH

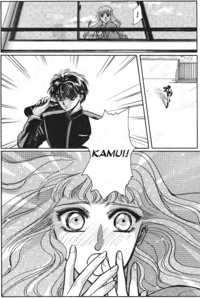

ZUSSH
KAW
KAWW KAW
GO BACK AND TELL YOUR MASTER...
"IF YOU CONTINUE TO GET IN MY WAY...
"...PREPARE TO DIE."

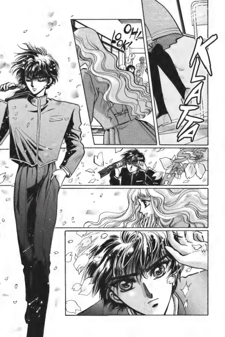

KAW KAW
RSSSL
SHK
HE DIDN'T EVEN BOTHER TO CREATE A *KEKKAI*.
HE WAS COMPLETELY RECKLESS IN USING HIS POWER.
...

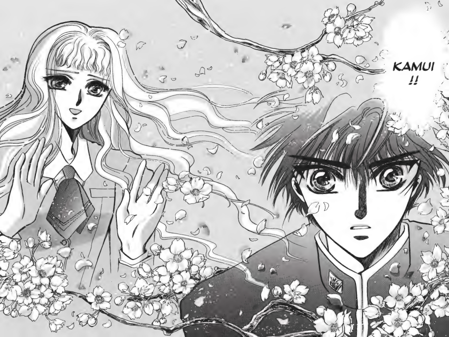

IS HE REALLY THE *KAMUI*?
OUR SWORN DUTY...
...IS TO FIND OUT.
THE CONTENT ON THE NEXT FEW PAGES ...
... WILL BE ON THE TEST.
SO PAY ATTENTION.

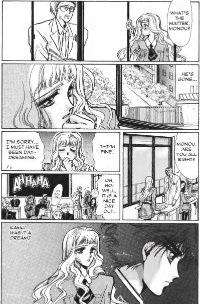

HMM... THE TRANSFER STUDENT IS LATE.
HE SHOULD HAVE COME TO CLASS BY NOW.
THE DREAM I HAD THIS MORNING... THE DREAM WHERE KAMUI WAS COMING HOME...
HE MOVED AWAY WHEN WE WERE IN THIRD GRADE.
SWEET KAMUI... I CAN STILL REMEMBER HIS SMILE.

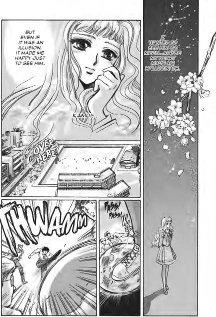

BUT THIS DREAM WAS DIFFERENT.
HE WASN'T NINE YEARS OLD...
...THE WAY I REMEMBER HIM.
HE'D GROWN UP.
HE WAS ABOUT MY AGE...
HIS SMILE WAS NO DIFFERENT FROM WHEN HE WAS NINE, THOUGH.
KOTORI, I'M HOME.
SIGH

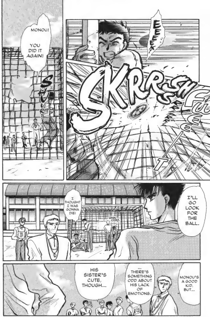

!
KAMUI!

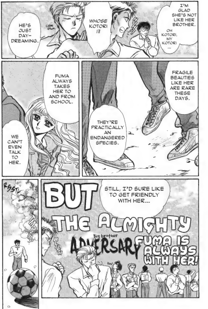

KLATA
OH!
LOOK!
SSAH

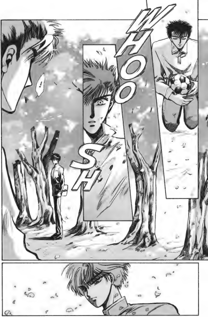

KAMUI !!

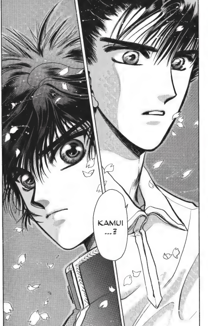

WHAT'S THE MATTER, MONOU?
OH!
HE'S GONE...
MONOU, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
I-I'M FINE.
I'M SORRY... I MUST HAVE BEEN DAY-DREAMING.
OH, HO! WELL, IT IS A NICE DAY OUT.
OH, KO-TORI
AHHAHA
KAMUI... WAS IT A DREAM?

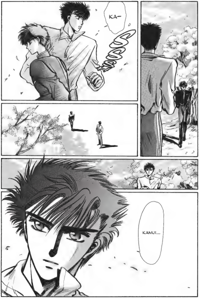

I WANTED TO SEE HIM SO MUCH...MAYBE MY HEART MADE ME HALLUCINATE.
BUT EVEN IF IT WAS AN ILLUSION, IT MADE ME HAPPY JUST TO SEE HIM.
KAMUI...
OVER HERE!
PASS! PASS!
WHIP
THWAMM

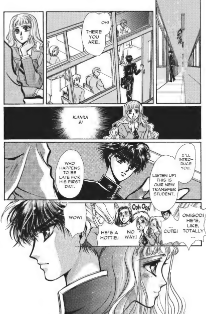

EEEEEK!
SKRRSH
SRRRR
FUEEE
T
MONOU!
YOU DID IT AGAIN!
SHUUR...
I'LL GO LOOK FOR THE BALL.
WHOA, GEEZ!
SOB!
I THOUGHT I WAS GONNA DIE!
MONOU'S A GOOD KID, BUT...
... THERE'S SOMETHING ODD ABOUT HIS LACK OF EMOTIONS.
HIS SISTER'S CUTE, THOUGH...

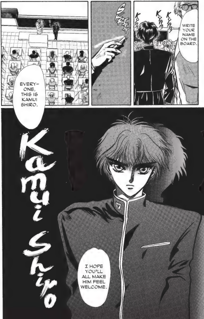

I'M GLAD SHE'S NOT LIKE HER BROTHER.
OH KOTORI, MY KOTORI...
WHOSE KOTORI!?
HE'S JUST DAY-DREAMING.
FRAGILE BEAUTIES LIKE HER ARE RARE THESE DAYS.
THEY'RE PRACTICALLY AN ENDANGERED SPECIES.
FUMA ALWAYS TAKES HER TO AND FROM SCHOOL.
WE CAN'T EVEN TALK TO HER.
STILL, I'D SURE LIKE TO GET FRIENDLY WITH HER...
BUT THE ALMIGHTY Big brother ADVERSARY FUMA IS ALWAYS WITH HER!

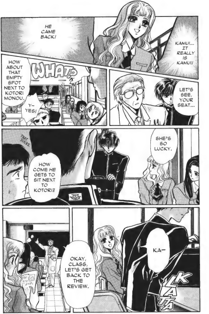

WHOOSH
!

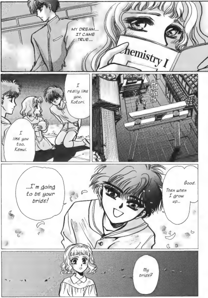

KAMUI ...?

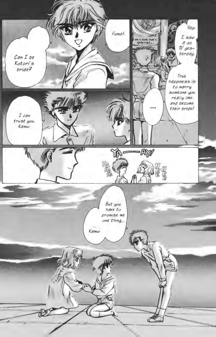

KA–
SSSH
KAMUI...

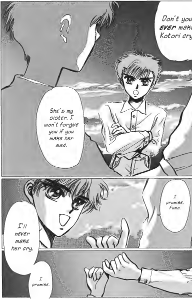

OH! THERE YOU ARE.
KAMUI ...!
I'LL INTRODUCE YOU.
LISTEN UP! THIS IS OUR NEW TRANSFER STUDENT.
WHO HAPPENS TO BE LATE FOR HIS FIRST DAY.
OMIGOD! HE'S, LIKE, TOTALLY ...
... CUTE!
NO WAY!
Ooh Ooh
HE'S A HOTTIE!
WOW!

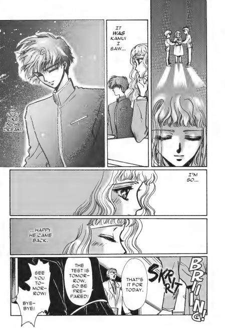

WRITE YOUR NAME ON THE BOARD.
KYAA!
KYAA!
KYAA
SKREE
EVERY-ONE, THIS IS KAMUI SHIRO.
Kamui Shiro
I HOPE YOU'LL ALL MAKE HIM FEEL WELCOME.

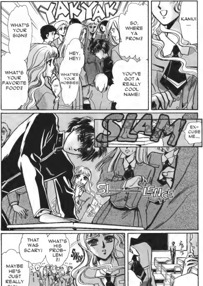

HE CAME BACK!
KAMUI... IT REALLY IS KAMUI!!
LET'S SEE, YOUR SEAT...
HOW ABOUT THAT EMPTY SPOT NEXT TO KOTORI MONOU.
WHAT?
Y-YES!
SHE'S SO LUCKY.
HOW COME HE GETS TO SIT NEXT TO KOTORI?
THAT SUCKS.
KA—
OKAY, CLASS, LET'S GET BACK TO THE REVIEW.
KLATA

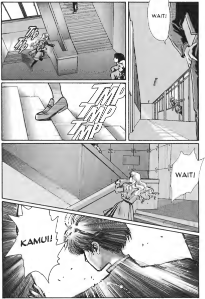

Chemistry I
MY DREAM... IT CAME TRUE...
HAHAHA
I really like you, Kotori.
I like you too, Kamui.
Good. Then when I grow up...
...I'm going to be your bride!
My bride?

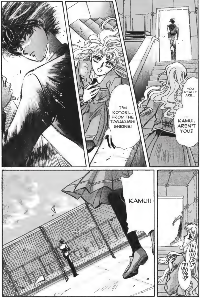

Kay.
I saw it on TV yes-terday.
True happiness is to marry someone you really like and become their bride!
I don't think that's quite right...
...
Fuma!
Can I be Kotori's bride?
I can trust you, Kamui.
YA——AY!
HEE HEE
HA HA HA
But you have to promise me one thing... Kamui.

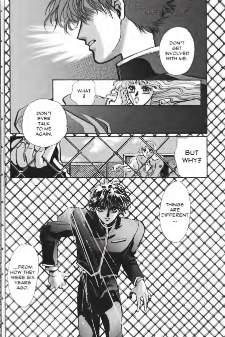

?
Don't you **EVER** make Kotori cry.
She's my sister. I won't forgive you if you make her sad.
I promise, Fuma.
I'll never make her cry.
I promise.

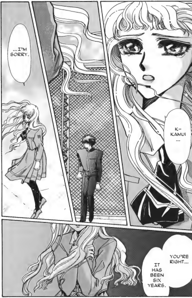

IT WAS KAMUI I SAW...
...JUST LIKE IN THE DREAM!
I'M SO...
...HAPPY HE CAME BACK.
BRIIING!
SKRIT
THAT'S IT FOR TODAY.
THE TEST IS TOMORROW, SO BE PREPARED!
SEE YOU TOMORROW!
BYE-BYE!

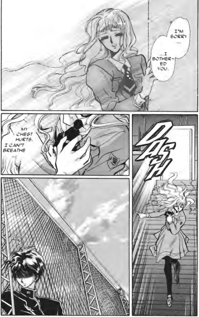

KAMUI ...
YAK YAK
SO, WHERE YA FROM?
WHAT'S YOUR SIGN?
HEY, HEY!
YOU'VE GOT A REALLY COOL NAME!
WHAT'RE YOUR HOBBIES?
UM...
WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE FOOD?
EX-CUSE ME...
SLAM
SILENCE
TMP TMP
SWSH
WHAT'S HIS PROBLEM?!
THAT WAS SCARY!
MAYBE HE'S JUST REALLY SHY...

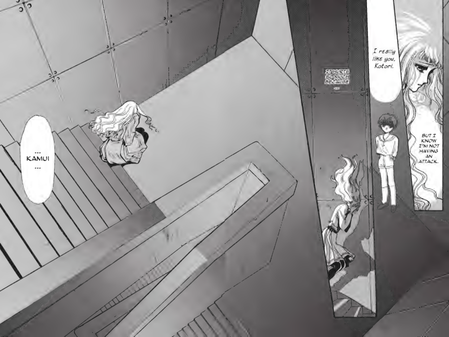

WAIT!
TIP
TIP
TMP
TMP
TMP
WAIT!
KAMUI!

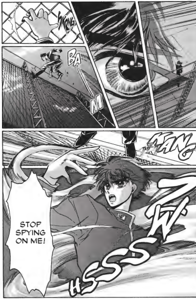

YOU REALLY ARE...
... KAMUI, AREN'T YOU?
I'M KOTORI... FROM THE TOGAKUSHI SHRINE!
HUF HUF
KAMUI!

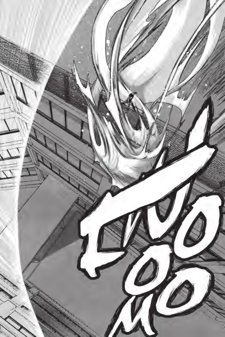

DON'T GET INVOLVED WITH ME.
WHAT?
DON'T EVER TALK TO ME AGAIN.
BUT WHY?
THINGS ARE DIFFERENT ...
...FROM HOW THEY WERE SIX YEARS AGO.

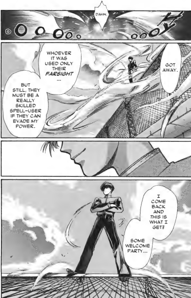

K-KAMUI ...
...I'M SORRY.
YOU'RE RIGHT...
IT HAS BEEN SIX YEARS.

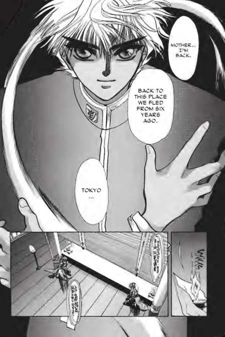

I'M SORRY ...
...I BOTHERED YOU.
DASH
MY CHEST HURTS. I CAN'T BREATHE ...

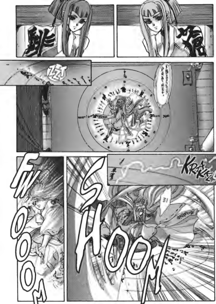

I really like you, Kotori.
BUT I KNOW I'M NOT HAVING AN ATTACK.
IT HURTS SO MUCH
... KAMUI ...

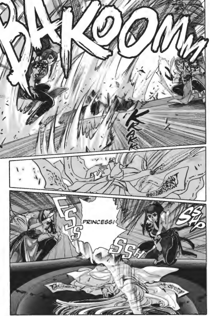

SKRNG
BA
M
KANG
TMP
STOP SPYING ON ME!
HSSSWZ

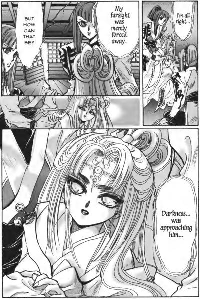

FWOOOM

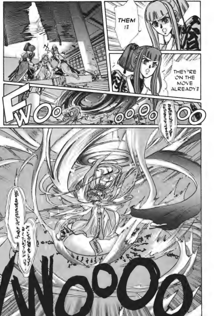

oOOOOo... oooOY
DAMN.
GOT AWAY.
WHOEVER IT WAS USED ONLY THEIR *FARSIGHT* ...
BUT STILL, THEY MUST BE A REALLY SKILLED SPELL-USER IF THEY CAN EVADE MY POWER.
I COME BACK AND *THIS* IS WHAT I GET?
SOME WELCOME PARTY...

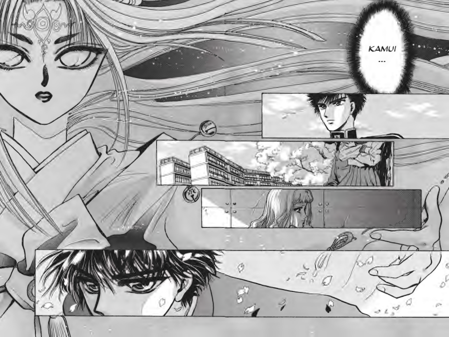

MOTHER... I'M BACK.
BACK TO THIS PLACE WE FLED FROM SIX YEARS AGO.
TOKYO ...

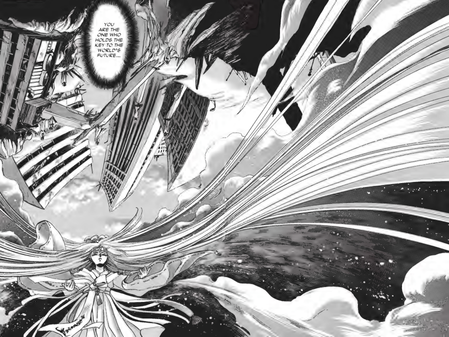

ZZT
KRAKKZ
FWOOOOM
SHOOM

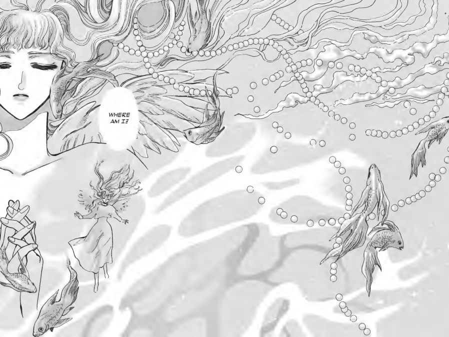

BAKOOMM
KRAKK
SSHP
PRINCESS!
FSSS
SSH

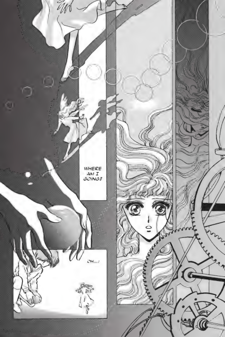

I'm all right...
My farsight was merely forced away.
BUT HOW CAN THAT BE?
Darkness... was approaching him...

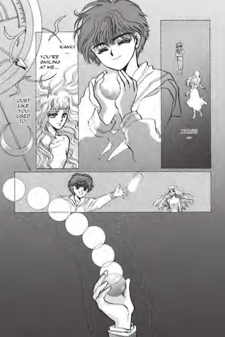

THEM !?
THEY'RE ON THE MOVE ALREADY?
FWOOO OOOO OO
VWOOOO

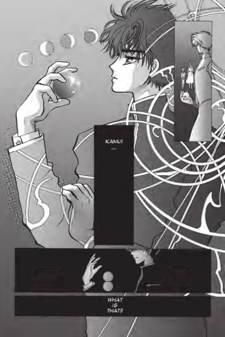

KAMUI
...

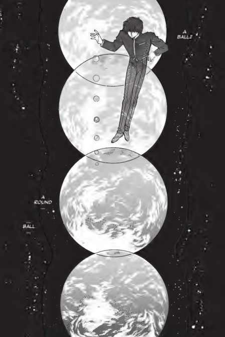

YOU ARE THE ONE WHO HOLDS THE KEY TO THE WORLD'S FUTURE...

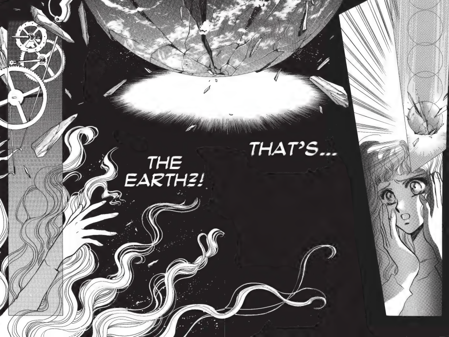

WHERE AM I?

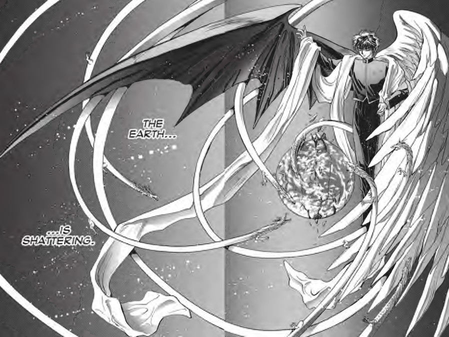

WHERE AM I GOING?
OH...!


KAMUI
YOU'RE SMILING AT ME...
JUST LIKE YOU USED TO.

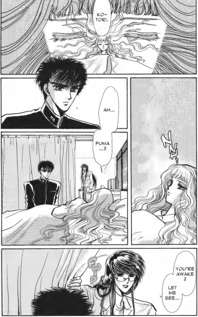

KAMUI
—
WHAT IS THAT?

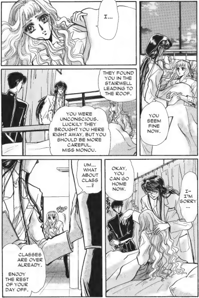

A BALL!
A ROUND ... BALL

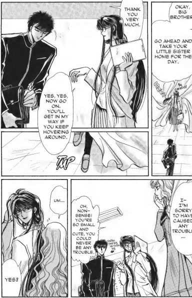

THAT'S...
THE EARTH?!

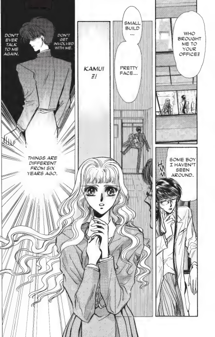

THE EARTH...
...IS SHATTERING.

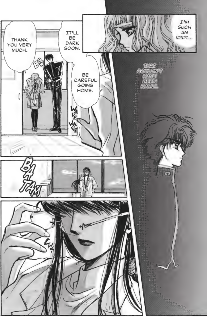
IT'S BREAKING!
... TO... RI...
KO... TO... RI...

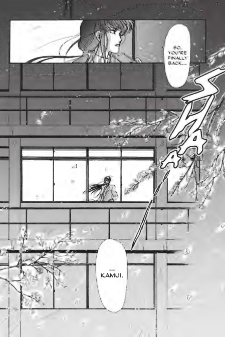

KO-TORI.
AH...
FUMA ...?
YOU'RE AWAKE?
LET ME SEE...

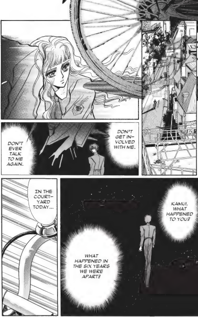

I...
THEY FOUND YOU IN THE STAIRWELL LEADING TO THE ROOF.
YOU WERE UNCONSCIOUS. LUCKILY THEY BROUGHT YOU HERE RIGHT AWAY, BUT YOU SHOULD BE MORE CAREFUL, MISS MONOU.
YOU SEEM FINE NOW.
I- I'M SORRY ...
OKAY, YOU CAN GO HOME NOW.
UM... WHAT ABOUT CLASS ...?
CLASSES ARE OVER ALREADY.
ENJOY THE REST OF YOUR DAY OFF.

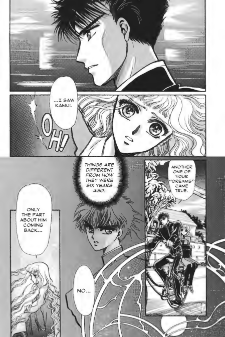

OKAY, BIG BROTHER.
GO AHEAD AND TAKE YOUR LITTLE SISTER HOME FOR THE DAY.
Be careful!
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
YES, YES, NOW GO ON. YOU'LL GET IN MY WAY IF YOU KEEP HOVERING AROUND.
TMP
I-I'M SORRY TO HAVE CAUSED ANY TROUBLE ...
OH, NON-SENSE! YOU'RE SO SMALL AND CUTE, YOU COULD NEVER BE ANY TROUBLE.
Unlike this big un-cute lug
UM...
YES?

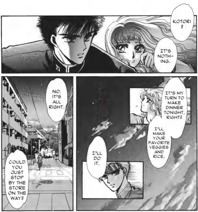

WHO BROUGHT ME TO YOUR OFFICE?
HM
SOME BOY I HAVEN'T SEEN AROUND.
SMALL BUILD ...
PRETTY FACE...
KAMUI ?!
DON'T GET INVOLVED WITH ME.
DON'T EVER TALK TO ME AGAIN.
THINGS ARE DIFFERENT FROM SIX YEARS AGO.

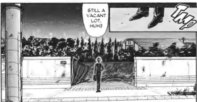

I'M SUCH AN IDIOT...
IT'LL BE DARK SOON.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
BOW
BE CAREFUL GOING HOME.
WAVE WAVE
THAT COULDN'T HAVE BEEN KAMUI.
BA-TAM
CLINK

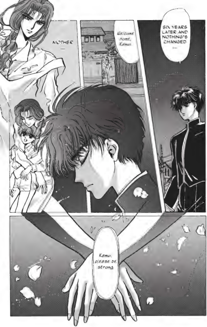

SO, YOU'RE FINALLY BACK...
SHAA
... KAMUI.

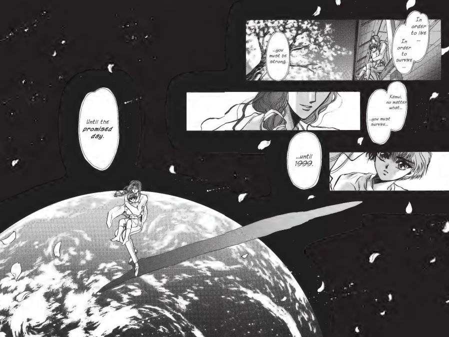

DON'T GET INVOLVED WITH ME.
DON'T EVER TALK TO ME AGAIN.
KAMUI, WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?
WHAT HAPPENED IN THE SIX YEARS WE WERE APART?
IN THE COURTYARD TODAY...

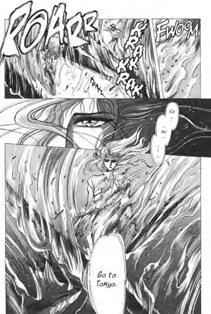

...I SAW KAMUI.
OH!
ANOTHER ONE OF YOUR "DREAMS" CAME TRUE.
THINGS ARE DIFFERENT FROM HOW THEY WERE SIX YEARS AGO.
ONLY THE PART ABOUT HIM COMING BACK...
NO...

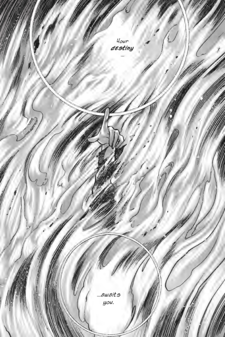

KOTORI?
IT'S NOTHING.
IT'S MY TURN TO MAKE DINNER TONIGHT, RIGHT?
I'LL MAKE YOUR FAVORITE VEGGIES AND RICE.
I'LL DO IT.
NO. IT'S ALL RIGHT.
COULD YOU JUST STOP BY THE STORE ON THE WAY?

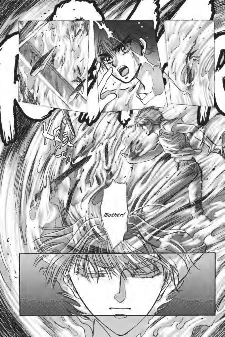

TMP
STILL A VACANT LOT, HUH?

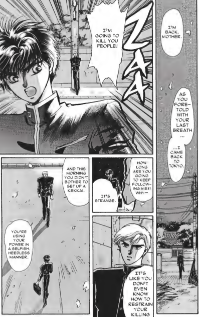

SIX YEARS LATER AND NOTHING'S CHANGED ...
Welcome home, Kamui.
MOTHER ...
Kamui, please be strong.

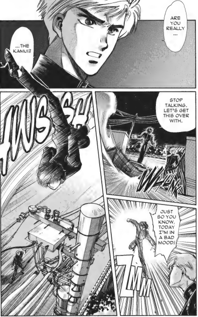

In order to live ...
In order to survive ...
...you must be strong.
Kamui, no matter what...
...you must survive...
...until 1999.
Until the promised day.

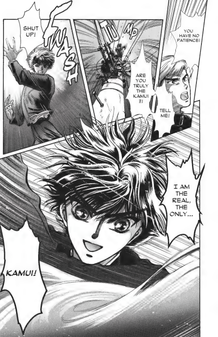

FWOOM
KRAKKRAK
ROARR
KRAKL
Go to Tokyo.

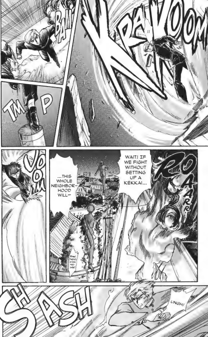

Your **destiny** ...
...awaits you.

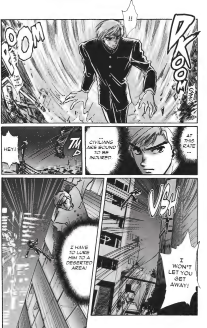

KREK
CRAK
Mother!

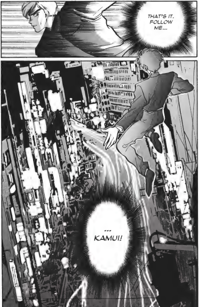

I'M BACK, MOTHER.
AS YOU FORETOLD WITH YOUR LAST BREATH ...
...I CAME BACK TO TOKYO.
I'M GOING TO KILL YOU PEOPLE!
ZAA
HOW LONG ARE YOU GOING TO KEEP FOLLOWING ME?! WHY —
IT'S STRANGE.
AND THIS MORNING YOU DIDN'T BOTHER TO SET UP A KEKKAI.
YOU'RE USING YOUR POWER IN A SELFISH, HEEDLESS MANNER.
IT'S LIKE YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW TO RESTRAIN YOUR KILLING INTENT.

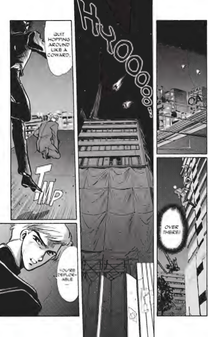

ARE YOU REALLY ...
...THE KAMUI!?
STOP TALKING. LET'S GET THIS OVER WITH.
WHAM
JUST SO YOU KNOW, TODAY I'M IN A BAD MOOD!
ZMM
HWUSSH

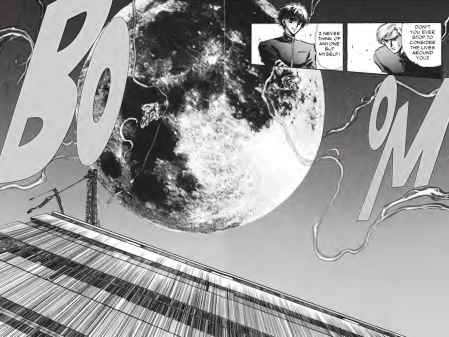

YOU HAVE NO PATIENCE!
ARE YOU TRULY THE KAMUI?!
TELL ME!
THUMP
SHUT UP!
FWASH
I AM THE REAL, THE ONLY...
KAMUI!

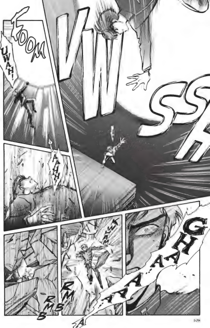

KRA-VOOM
BAM
TMP
ROAAAR
WAIT! IF WE FIGHT WITHOUT SETTING UP A KEKKAI...
...THIS WHOLE NEIGHBORHOOD WILL—
Mew! There's a Gyo outside!
VOOM
SHASH
UNGH!

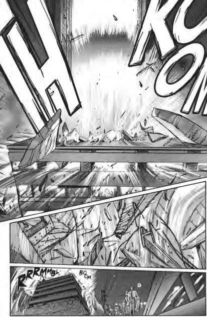

DKOOM
GYAH!
!!
POOM
The wall is gone!
AT THIS RATE ...
... CIVILIANS ARE BOUND TO BE INJURED.
TMP
HEY!
VSH
I WON'T LET YOU GET AWAY!
I HAVE TO LURE HIM TO A DESERTED AREA!

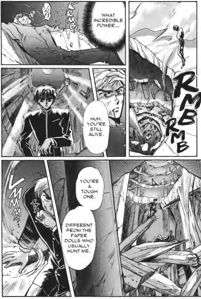

THAT'S IT. FOLLOW ME...
... KAMUI!

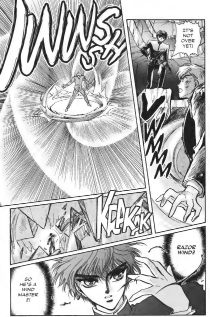

HYOOOO!!
OVER THERE!!
QUIT HOPPING AROUND LIKE A COWARD.
TMP
YOU'RE DEPLORABLE...

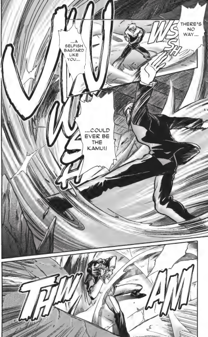

DON'T YOU EVER STOP TO CONSIDER THE LIVES AROUND YOU?
I NEVER THINK OF ANYONE BUT MYSELF!
BOOM

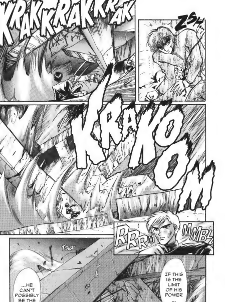

VW
SSH
FOOOM
UWAH!
AAHH
GHAAAAAAA...A
WHAM
RMB
RMB

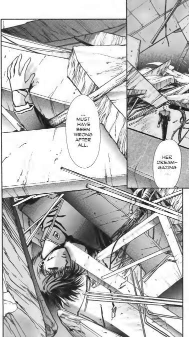

KOOM
H
BOOM
RRRMMBL

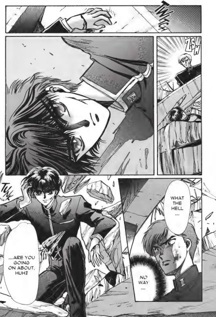

RMB RMB
KRMBL
WHAT INCREDIBLE POWER...
HUH. YOU'RE STILL ALIVE.
YOU'RE A TOUGH ONE.
DIFFERENT FROM THE PAPER DOLLS WHO USUALLY HUNT ME.
VMMM...

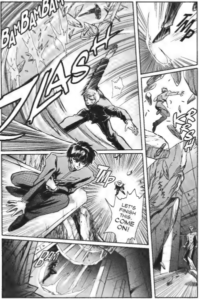

IT'S NOT OVER YET!
VWMMM
KRAKK
RAZOR WIND?
SO HE'S A WIND MASTER?!

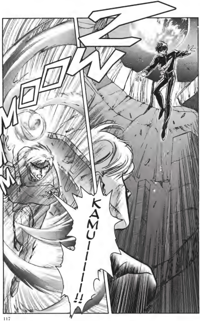

THERE'S NO WAY...
WSSH
...A SELFISH BASTARD LIKE YOU...
VWUSH
...COULD EVER BE THE KAMUI!
THWAM

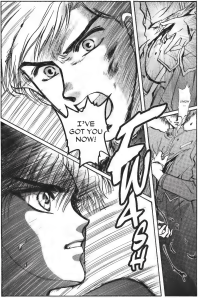

ZSH
KRAKKRAKKRAK
KRAKOM
MMBL
RRRM
TOKK
IF THIS IS THE LIMIT OF HIS POWER ...
...HE CAN'T POSSIBLY BE THE KAMUI.

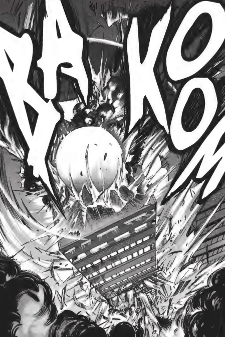

HER DREAM-GAZING ...
... MUST HAVE BEEN WRONG AFTER ALL.

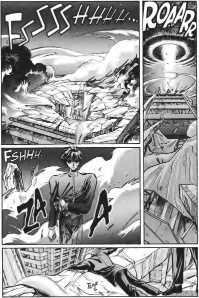

TWITCH
ZSH
WHAT THE HELL ...
NO WAY ...
TUNK
...ARE YOU GOING ON ABOUT, HUH?

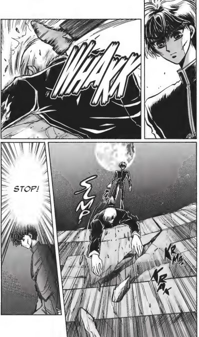

TMP
BAMBAMBAM
ZLASH
TCH!
KRRSH
TMP
LET'S FINISH THIS. COME ON!
BAM

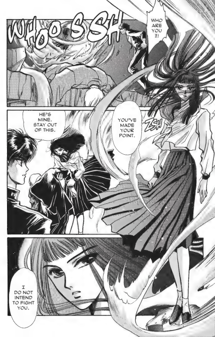

MMMOOOOWW
KAMUI!!!!!!!

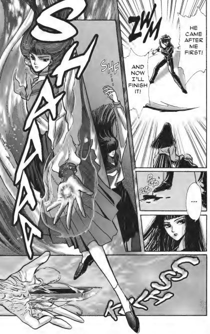

UNGH ...
I'VE GOT YOU NOW!
FWASH

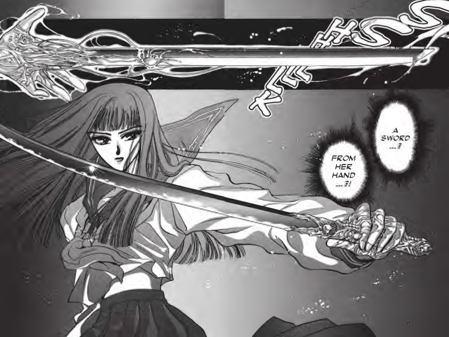

BAKOOM

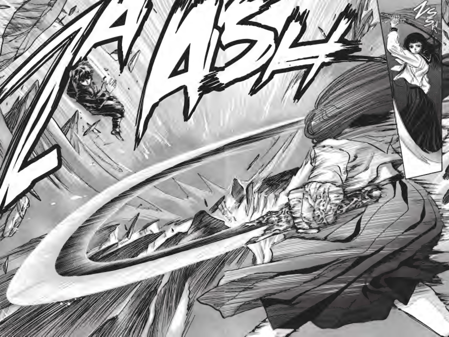

ROAARR
FSSSSHHHH...
FSHHH..
ZAA
A
TUNK

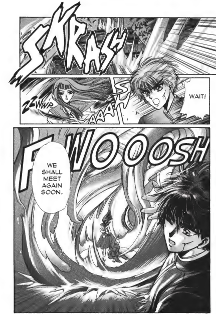

WHAKK
SLMP!
KRMBL
KRAK
STOP!

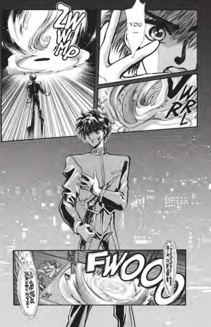

WHOOSSH
WHO ARE YOU?!
HE'S MINE. STAY OUT OF THIS.
YOU'VE MADE YOUR POINT.
ZSH
I DO NOT INTEND TO FIGHT YOU.

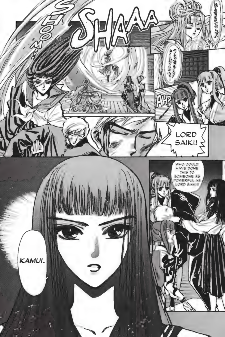

ZWM
HE CAME AFTER ME FIRST!
AND NOW I'LL FINISH IT!
SHAAAAA
SHF
PLIP
PLIP
...
KSHSS

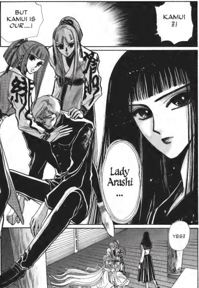

A SWORD ...?
FROM HER HAND ...?!

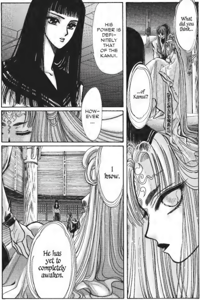

NSSH
ZAASH

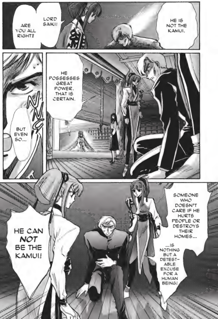

SKRASH
KRAK
KRAK
WAIT!
SHAAAAH
ZZWWP
FWOOOSH
WE SHALL MEET AGAIN SOON.

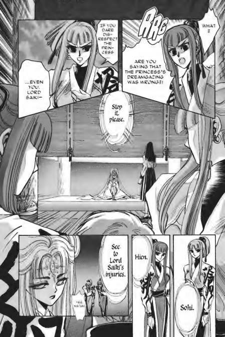

YOU
...
ZWWIMP
VWRRL
FWOOO

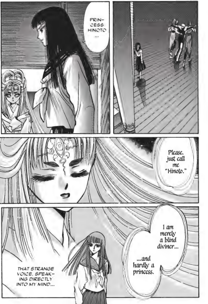

SHAAA
SHOOM...
AH?
LORD SAIKI!
WHO COULD HAVE DONE THIS TO SOMEONE AS POWERFUL AS LORD SAIKI?
KAMUI.

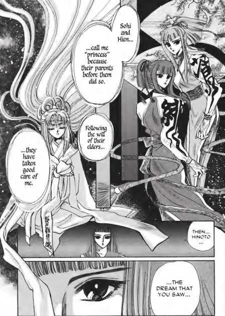

KAMUI ?!
BUT KAMUI IS OUR...!
Lady Arashi ...
YES?

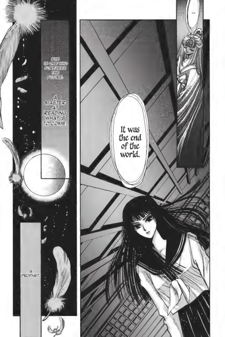

What did you think...
...of Kamui?
HIS POWER IS DEFINITELY THAT OF THE KAMUI.
HOWEVER...
I know.
He has yet to completely awaken.

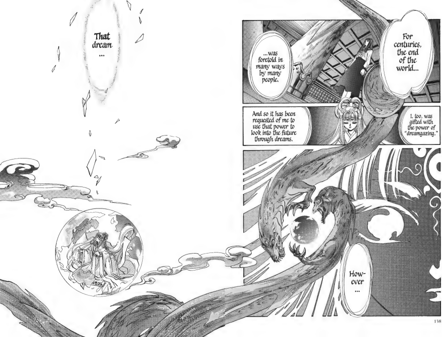

HE IS NOT THE KAMUI.
LORD SAIKI!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
HE POSSESSES GREAT POWER. THAT IS CERTAIN.
NNG
BUT EVEN SO...
SOMEONE WHO DOESN'T CARE IF HE HURTS PEOPLE OR DESTROYS THEIR HOMES...
...IS NOTHING BUT A DETESTABLE EXCUSE FOR A HUMAN BEING!
HE CAN *NOT* BE THE KAMUI!

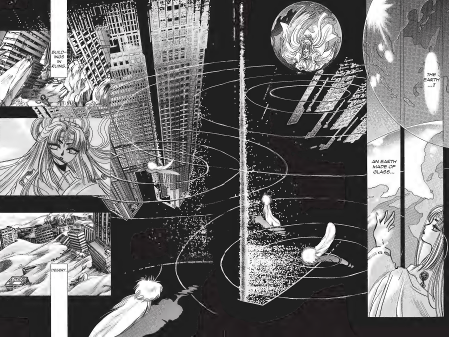

WHAT?
ARG
ARE YOU SAYING THAT THE PRINCESS'S DREAMGAZING WAS WRONG?!
IF YOU DARE DISRESPECT THE PRINCESS
...EVEN YOU, LORD SAIKI—
Stop it, please.
Sohi.
Hien.
See to Lord Saiki's injuries.

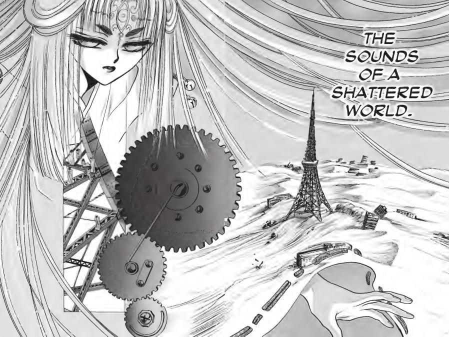

PRIN-CESS HINOTO ...
Please, just call me "Hinoto."
I am merely a blind diviner...
...and hardly a princess.
THAT STRANGE VOICE, SPEAK-ING DIRECTLY INTO MY MIND...

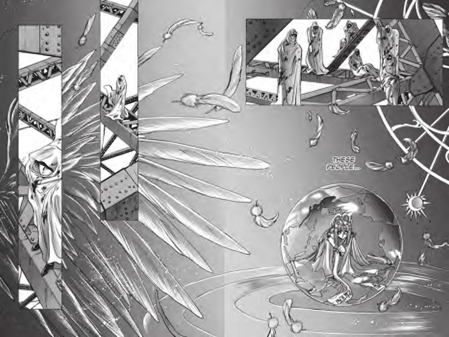

Sohi and Hien...
...call me "princess" because their parents before them did so.
Following the will of their elders...
...they have taken good care of me.
THEN... HINOTO ...
...THE DREAM THAT YOU SAW...

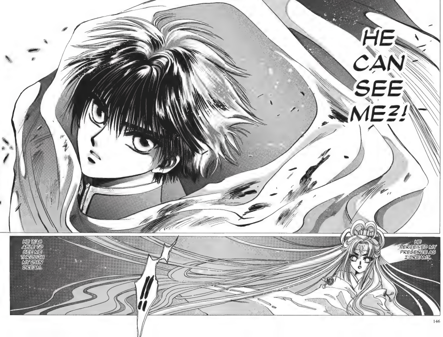

...
It was the end of the world.
SHE IS ONE WHO FORESEES THE FUTURE.
A MASTER AT READING WHAT IS TO COME.
A PROPHET.

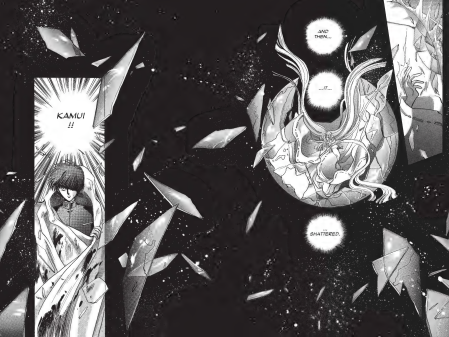

That dream ...
For centuries, the end of the world...
...was foretold in many ways by many people.
I, too, was gifted with the power of "dreamgazing."
And so it has been requested of me to use that power to look into the future through dreams.
How-ever ...

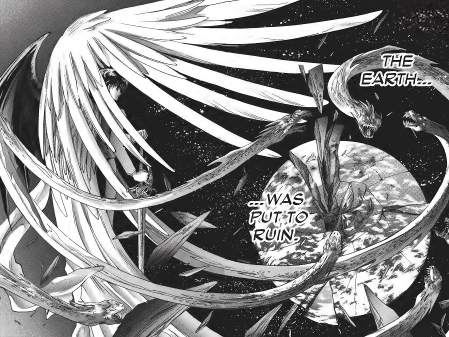

THE EARTH ...?
AN EARTH MADE OF GLASS...
BUILDINGS IN RUINS...
DESERT...

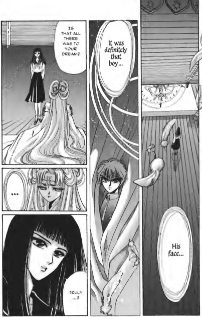

THE SOUNDS OF A SHATTERED WORLD.

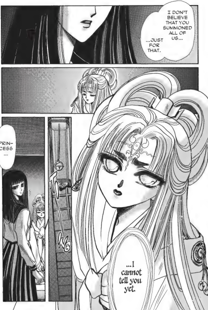

THESE PEOPLE...

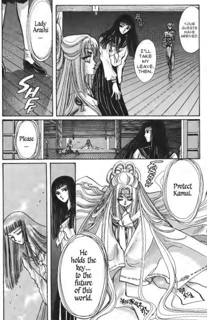

HE CAN SEE ME?!
HE PERCEIVED MY PRESENCE AS I DREAMT.
!!
HE WAS ABLE TO SEE ME THROUGH MY OWN DREAM.

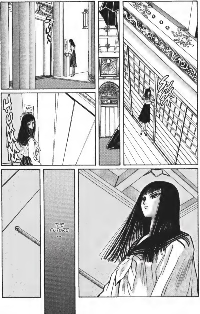

AND THEN...
...IT...
...SHATTERED.
KAMUI !!

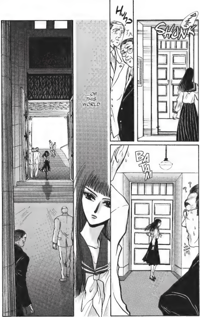

THE EARTH...
...WAS PUT TO RUIN.

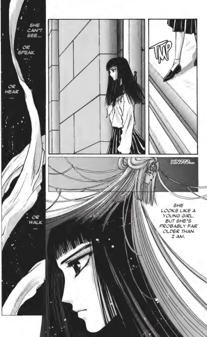

IS THAT ALL THERE WAS TO YOUR DREAM?
...
TRULY ...?
It was definitely that boy...
His face...

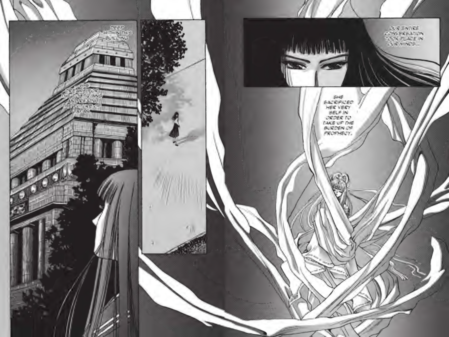

I DON'T BELIEVE THAT YOU SUMMONED ALL OF US...
...JUST FOR THAT.
PRINCESS...
...I cannot tell you yet.

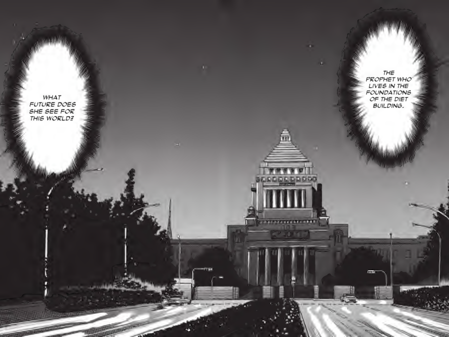

YOUR GUESTS HAVE ARRIVED.
BOW
I'LL TAKE MY LEAVE, THEN.
Lady Arashi ...
SHFF
Please ...
Protect Kamui.
He holds the key... to the future of this world.

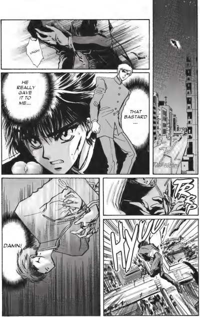

SHIK
SHUNK
HUMMMM
THE FUTURE ...

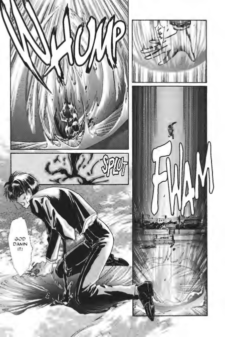

SHUNK
Huh?
...OF THIS WORLD ...
BATAM
? ?
A high school girl (?!)

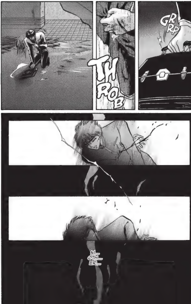

TMP
HINOTO...
SHE LOOKS LIKE A YOUNG GIRL, BUT SHE'S PROBABLY FAR OLDER THAN I AM.
SHE CAN'T SEE...
OR SPEAK ...
OR HEAR ...
OR WALK ...

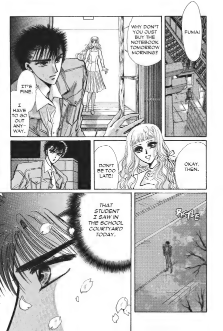

OUR ENTIRE CONVERSATION TOOK PLACE IN OUR MINDS...
SHE SACRIFICED HER VERY SELF IN ORDER TO TAKE UP THE BURDEN OF PROPHECY.
DEEP WITHIN THIS BUILDING

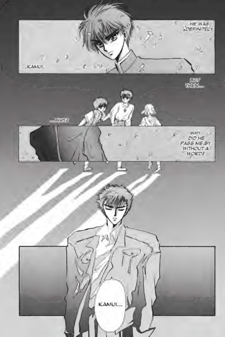

THE PROPHET WHO LIVES IN THE FOUNDATIONS OF THE DIET BUILDING.
WHAT FUTURE DOES SHE SEE FOR THIS WORLD?

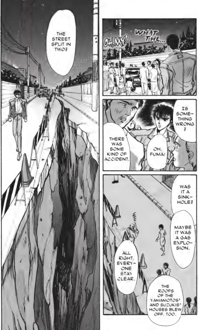

UNGH!
THAT BASTARD...
HE REALLY GAVE IT TO ME...
TR-R-RIP
DAMN!
HYUUU!

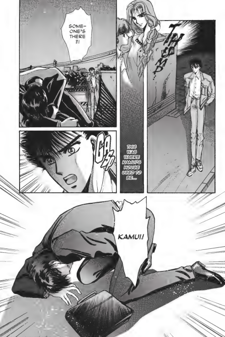

WHUMP
FWAM
SPLUT
GOD DAMN IT!

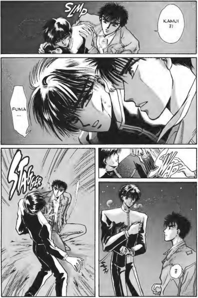

GRRP
THROB
WHP
M... OTH... ER...

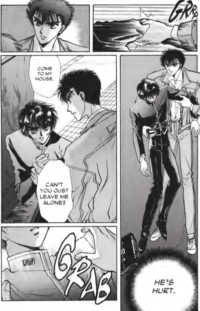

FUMA!
WHY DON'T YOU JUST BUY THE NOTEBOOK TOMORROW MORNING?
IT'S FINE.
I HAVE TO GO OUT ANYWAY.
OKAY, THEN.
DON'T BE TOO LATE!
RSTLE
THAT STUDENT I SAW IN THE SCHOOL COURTYARD TODAY.

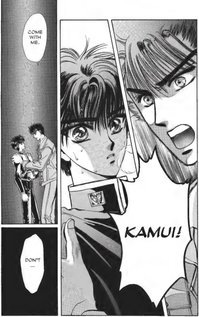

HE WAS DEFINITELY...
...KAMUI.
BUT THEN...
WHY DID HE PASS ME BY WITHOUT A WORD?
...WHY?
KAMUI...

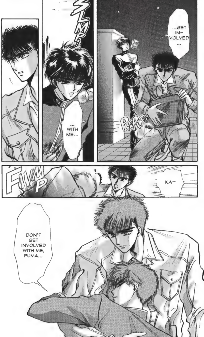

WHAT THE...
OH, MY!
IS SOMETHING WRONG?
OH, FUMA!
THERE WAS SOME KIND OF ACCIDENT.
WAS IT A SINKHOLE?
MAYBE IT WAS A GAS EXPLOSION.
ALL RIGHT, EVERYONE STAY CLEAR.
THE ROOFS OF THE YAMAMOTOS' AND SUZUKIS' HOUSES BLEW OFF, TOO.
THE STREET SPLIT IN TWO?

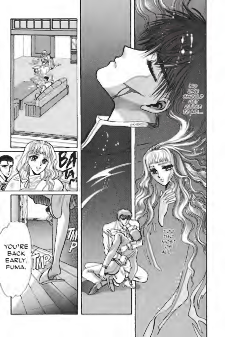

THOOMP...
SOME-ONE'S THERE?!
THIS WAS WHERE KAMUI'S HOUSE USED TO BE...
GASP
KAMUI!

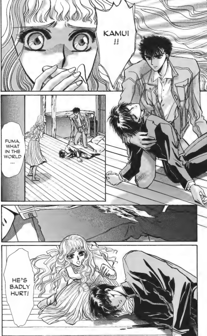

KAMUI !!
SLMP
FUMA ...
SNAP
?!
STAGGER

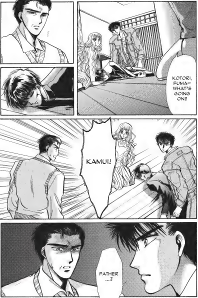

GRRP
HE'S HURT.
COME TO MY HOUSE.
CAN'T YOU JUST LEAVE ME ALONE?
GRAB

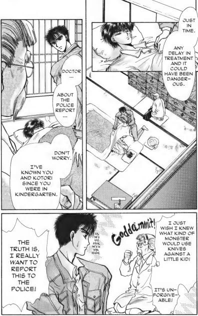

KAMUI!
COME WITH ME.
DON'T ...

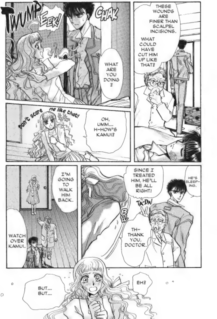

...GET IN-VOLVED ...
PAF PAF
SLMP!
... WITH ME...
KA–
FWMP
DON'T GET INVOLVED WITH ME, FUMA...

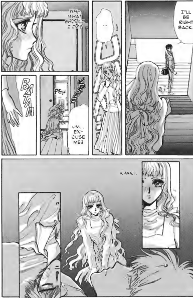

WE TWO SHOULD NOT HAVE MET...
YOU TWO MOST OF ALL.
BATAN
TMP TMP
YOU'RE BACK EARLY, FUMA.

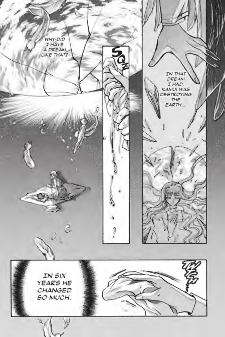

KAMUI !!
FUMA, WHAT IN THE WORLD ...
HE'S BADLY HURT!

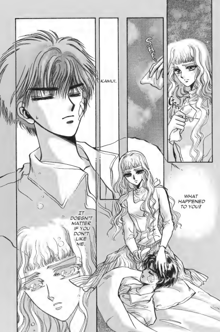

KOTORI, FUMA— WHAT'S GOING ON?
KAMUI!
FATHER ...?

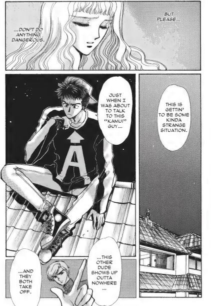

JUST IN TIME.
ANY DELAY IN TREATMENT AND IT COULD HAVE BEEN DANGER-OUS.
DOCTOR ...
ABOUT THE POLICE REPORT ...
DON'T WORRY.
I'VE KNOWN YOU AND KOTORI SINCE YOU WERE IN KINDERGARTEN.
Goddammit!
I JUST WISH I KNEW WHAT KIND OF MONSTER WOULD USE KNIVES AGAINST A LITTLE KID!
IT'S UN-FORGIVE-ABLE!
THE TRUTH IS, I REALLY *WANT* TO REPORT THIS TO THE POLICE!
Uh, he's not a kid, he's in high school.

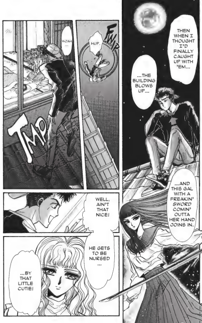

THESE WOUNDS ARE FINER THAN SCALPEL INCISIONS.
WHAT COULD HAVE CUT HIM UP LIKE THAT?
TWUMP
EEK!
CHAK
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
Don't scare me like that!
OH, UMM... H-HOW'S KAMUI?
HE'S SLEEPING.
SINCE I TREATED HIM, HE'LL BE ALL RIGHT!
TA-DA!
BOW
TH-THANK YOU, DOCTOR.
I'M GOING TO WALK HIM BACK.
WATCH OVER KAMUI.
EH?
BUT... BUT...

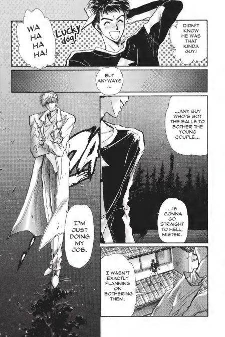

I'LL BE RIGHT BACK.
...
WH- WHAT SHOULD I DO?
KREEE
PEEK
UM... EX-CUSE ME?
BAAM
KAMUI.

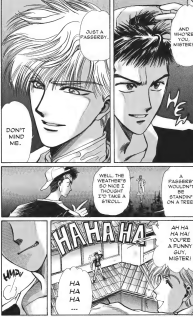

IN THAT DREAM I HAD, KAMUI WAS DESTROYING THE EARTH...
WHY DID I HAVE A DREAM LIKE THAT?
SQN
TWICH...
IN SIX YEARS HE CHANGED SO MUCH.

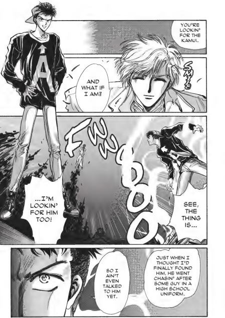

SHFF
GRAB
KAMUI.
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?
IT DOESN'T MATTER IF YOU DON'T LIKE ME.

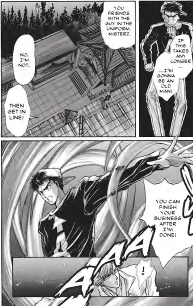

...DON'T DO ANYTHING DANGEROUS.
BUT PLEASE...
JUST WHEN I WAS ABOUT TO TALK TO THIS "KAMUI" GUY...
...THIS OTHER DUDE SHOWS UP OUTTA NOWHERE ...
...AND THEY BOTH TAKE OFF.
THIS IS GETTIN' TO BE SOME KINDA STRANGE SITUATION.

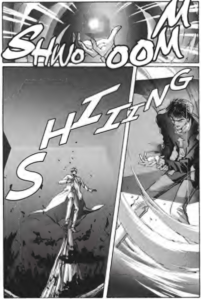

THEN WHEN I THOUGHT I'D FINALLY CAUGHT UP WITH 'EM...
...THE BUILDING BLOWS UP...
FWIP
HUP.
WOAH ...
TMP
...AND THIS GAL WITH A FREAKIN' *SWORD* COMIN' OUTTA HER HAND JOINS IN.
WELL, AIN'T THAT NICE!
HE GETS TO BE NURSED ...
...BY THAT LITTLE CUTIE!

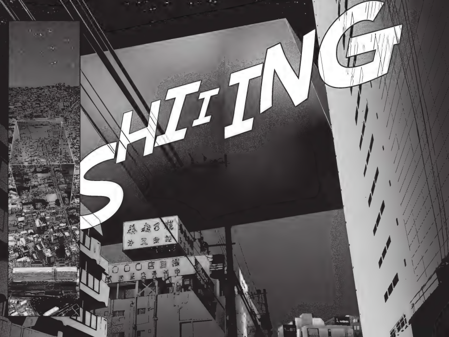

DIDN'T KNOW HE WAS THAT KINDA GUY!
Lucky dog!
WA HA HA HA!
BUT ANYWAYS ...
...ANY GUY WHO'S GOT THE BALLS TO BOTHER THE YOUNG COUPLE...
ZA
...IS GONNA GO STRAIGHT TO HELL, MISTER.
I'M JUST DOING MY JOB.
I WASN'T EXACTLY PLANNING ON BOTHERING THEM.

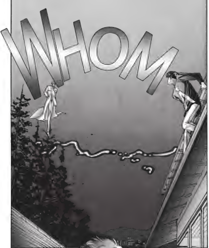

AND WHO'RE YOU, MISTER?
HEH
JUST A PASSERBY.
DON'T MIND ME.
A PASSERBY WOULDN'T BE STANDIN' ON A TREE.
WELL, THE WEATHER'S SO NICE I THOUGHT I'D TAKE A STROLL.
AH HA HA HA! YOU'RE A FUNNY GUY, MISTER!
HAHAHA
HA HA HA ...
HMPH

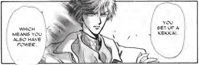

YOU'RE LOOKIN' FOR THE KAMUI.
SMILE
AND WHAT IF I AM?
FWOOOO
...I'M LOOKIN' FOR HIM TOO!
SEE, THE THING IS...
JUST WHEN I THOUGHT I'D FINALLY FOUND HIM, HE WENT CHASIN' AFTER SOME GUY IN A HIGH SCHOOL UNIFORM.
SO I AIN'T EVEN TALKED TO HIM YET.

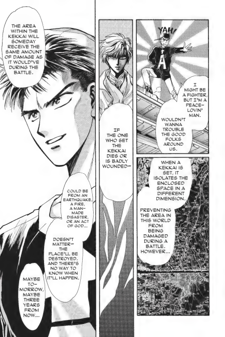

IF THIS TAKES ANY LONGER ...
...I'M GONNA BE AN OLD MAN!
YOU FRIENDS WITH THE GUY IN THE UNIFORM, MISTER?
NO, I'M NOT.
THEN GET IN LINE!
VWWW
YOU CAN FINISH YOUR BUSINESS AFTER I'M DONE!
AAAA
!
AAAA

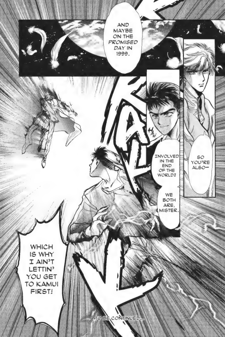

SHWOOOMM
SHIIING


SHIIING


WHOM


YOU SET UP A KEKKAI...
WHICH MEANS YOU ALSO HAVE *POWER*.


YAH!
I MIGHT BE A FIGHTER, BUT I'M A PEACE-LOVIN' MAN.
WOULDN'T WANNA TROUBLE THE GOOD FOLKS AROUND US.
WHEN A KEKKAI IS SET, IT ISOLATES THE ENCLOSED SPACE IN A DIFFERENT DIMENSION.
PREVENTING THE AREA IN THIS WORLD FROM BEING DAMAGED DURING A BATTLE. HOWEVER...
IF THE ONE WHO SET THE KEKKAI DIES OR IS BADLY WOUNDED—
THE AREA WITHIN THE KEKKAI WILL SOMEDAY RECEIVE THE SAME AMOUNT OF DAMAGE AS IT WOULD'VE DURING THE BATTLE.
COULD BE FROM AN EARTHQUAKE, A FIRE, A MAN-MADE DISASTER, OR AN ACT OF GOD...
DOESN'T MATTER—THE PLACE'LL BE DESTROYED, AND THERE'S NO WAY TO KNOW WHEN IT'LL HAPPEN.
MAYBE TOMORROW, MAYBE THREE YEARS FROM NOW...


AND MAYBE ON THE *PROMISED* DAY IN 1999.
SO YOU'RE ALSO—
INVOLVED IN THE END OF THE WORLD?
WE BOTH ARE, MISTER.
WHICH IS WHY I AIN'T LETTIN' YOU GET TO KAMUI FIRST!
TO BE CONTINUED...

X

VOLUME 1, PART 2

THE STARTING ARROW II

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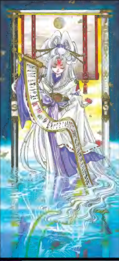
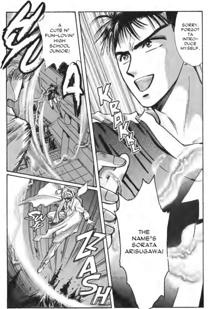
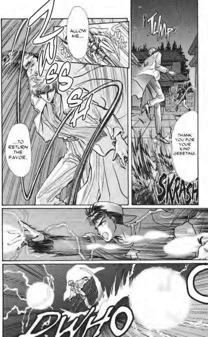
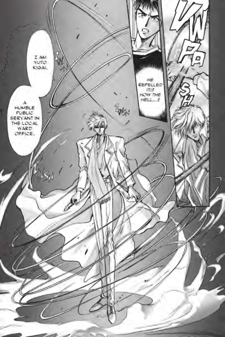


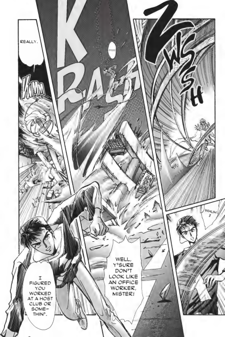
2 THE HIGH PRIESTESS

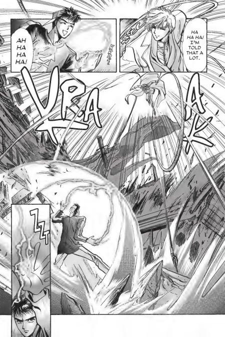
ב

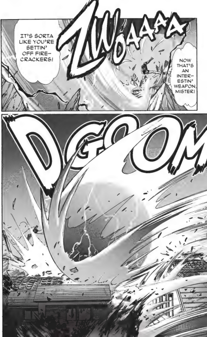

SORRY, FORGOT TA INTRODUCE MYSELF.
KRAKKL
THE NAME'S SORATA ARISUGAWA!
A CUTE N' FUN-LOVIN' HIGH SCHOOL JUNIOR!
SWP
ZZASH

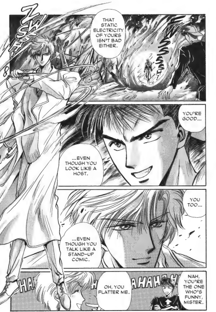

TMP
THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND GREETING.
SKRASH
ALLOW ME...
...TO RETURN THE FAVOR.
ZWSSSH
DWHO

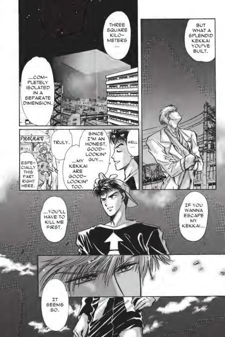

VWPASH
HE REPELLED IT!? HOW THE HELL...!?
I AM YUTO KIGAI.
A HUMBLE PUBLIC SERVANT IN THE LOCAL WARD OFFICE.

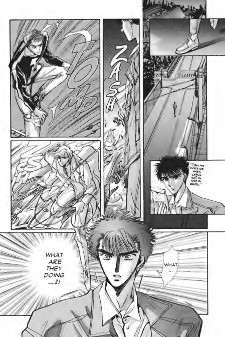

ZWSSH
KRASH
REALLY.
VWMM
WHUH?
WELL, Y'SURE DON'T LOOK LIKE AN OFFICE WORKER, MISTER!
I FIGURED YOU WORKED AT A HOST CLUB OR SOMETHIN'.

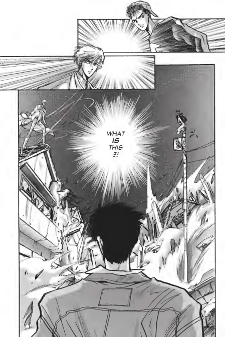

HA HA HA! I'M TOLD THAT A LOT.
AH HA HA HA!
VRA
AK
ZZT

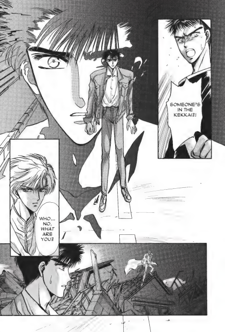

ZWOAAAA
NOW THAT'S AN INTERESTIN' WEAPON, MISTER!
IT'S SORTA LIKE YOU'RE SETTIN' OFF FIRECRACKERS!
DGOOM

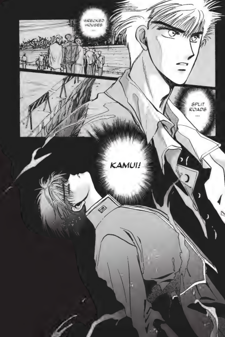

FWSSSSH...
THAT STATIC ELECTRICITY OF YOURS ISN'T BAD EITHER.
ZWSSH!
YOU'RE GOOD...
...EVEN THOUGH YOU LOOK LIKE A HOST.
YOU TOO...
...EVEN THOUGH YOU TALK LIKE A STAND-UP COMIC.
NAH, YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S FUNNY, MISTER.
AHAHAHAH
OH, YOU FLATTER ME.
HA

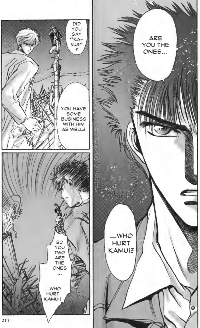

BUT WHAT A SPLENDID KEKKAI YOU'VE BUILT.
THREE SQUARE KILOMETERS...
...COMPLETELY ISOLATED IN A SEPARATE DIMENSION.
WELL...
SINCE I'M AN HONEST, GOOD-LOOKIN' GUY...
...MY KEKKAI ARE GOOD-LOOKIN' TOO.
TRULY.
PHARMACY
ESPECIALLY THIS PART RIGHT HERE.
IF YOU WANNA ESCAPE MY KEKKAI...
...YOU'LL HAVE TO KILL ME FIRST.
IT SEEMS SO.

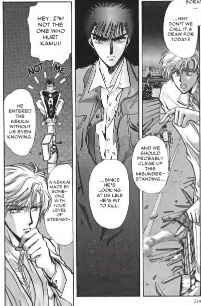

"Take one every six hours, within half an hour of meals."
ZASH
TOMP
ZASH
WHAT...
WHAT ARE THEY DOING ...?!

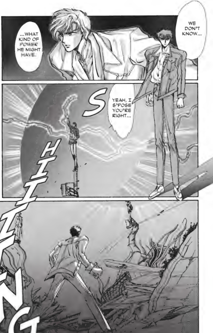

WHAT IS THIS ?!

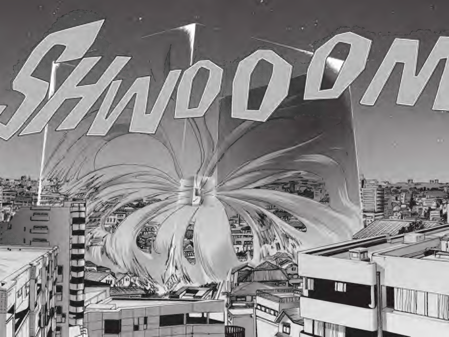

SOMEONE'S IN THE KEKKAI!?!
WHO... NO, WHAT ARE YOU?

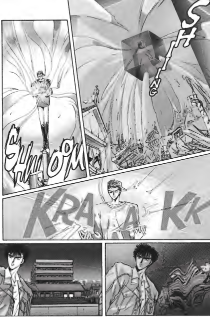

WRECKED HOUSES ...
SPLIT ROADS ...
KAMUI!

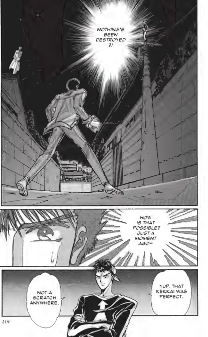

ARE YOU THE ONES...
...WHO HURT KAMUI?
DID YOU SAY "KA-MUI"?
YOU HAVE SOME BUSINESS WITH HIM AS WELL?
SO YOU TWO ARE THE ONES...
...WHO HURT KAMUI!

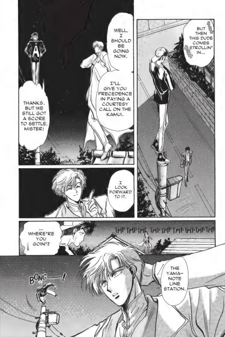

SORATA...
...WHY DON'T WE CALL IT A DRAW FOR TODAY?
AND WE SHOULD PROBABLY CLEAR UP THIS MISUNDERSTANDING...
...SINCE HE'S LOOKING AT US LIKE HE'S *FIT TO KILL*.
HEY, *I'M* NOT THE ONE WHO HURT KAMUI!
NOT ME!
HE ENTERED THE KEKKAI WITHOUT US EVEN KNOWING.
A KEKKAI MADE BY SOMEONE WITH YOUR LEVEL OF STRENGTH.

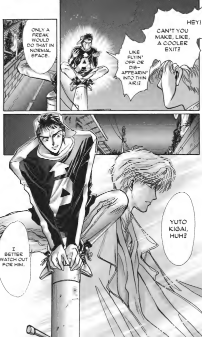

WE DON'T KNOW...
...WHAT KIND OF POWER HE MIGHT HAVE.
YEAH, I S'POSE YOU'RE RIGHT...
SHIIIIING

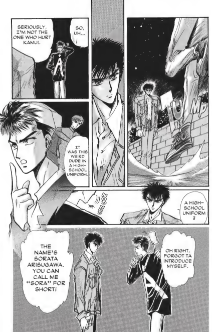

SHWOOOM

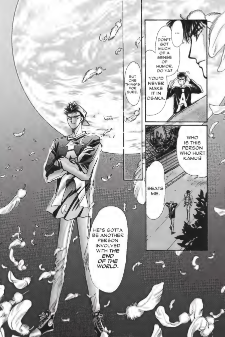

SHIING
SHWOOM
KRAAKK

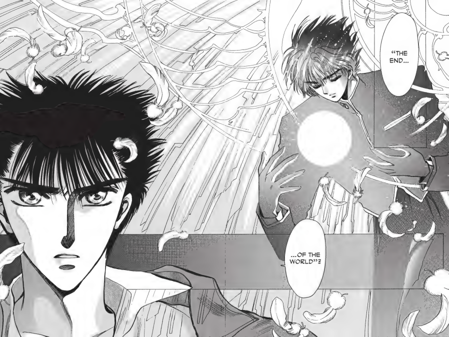

NOTHING'S BEEN DESTROYED?!
HOW IS THAT POSSIBLE? JUST A MOMENT AGO—
YUP. THAT KEKKAI WAS PERFECT.
NOT A SCRATCH ANYWHERE.

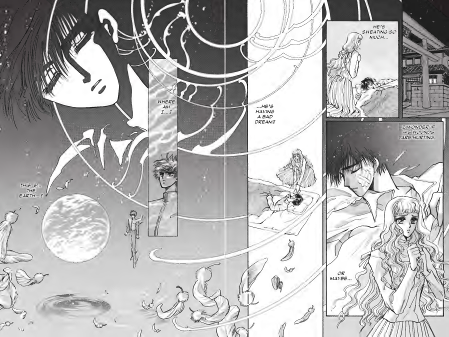

BUT THEN THIS DUDE COMES STROLLIN' IN...
BATCH
BATCH
WELL, I SHOULD BE GOING NOW.
I'LL GIVE YOU PRECEDENCE IN PAYING A COURTESY CALL ON THE KAMUI.
THANKS. BUT WE STILL GOT A SCORE TO SETTLE, MISTER!
I LOOK FORWARD TO IT.
TMP TMP TMP TMP TMP TMP TMP TMP TMP
... WHERE'RE YOU GOIN'?
THE YAMA-NOTE LINE STATION.
BONG!

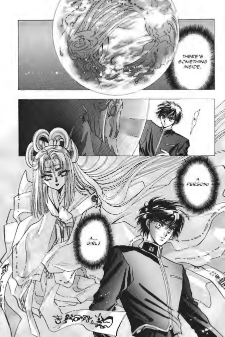

HEY!
CAN'T YOU MAKE, LIKE, A COOLER EXIT?
LIKE FLYIN' OFF OR DIS-APPEARIN' INTO THIN AIR!?
ONLY A FREAK WOULD DO THAT IN NORMAL SPACE.
YUTO KIGAI, HUH?
I BETTER WATCH OUT FOR HIM.

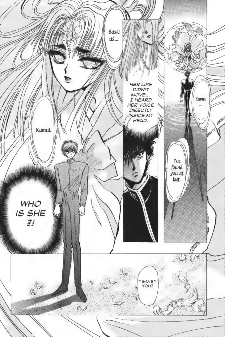

TUMP
SO, UH...
SERIOUSLY, I'M NOT THE ONE WHO HURT KAMUI.
IT WAS THIS WEIRD DUDE IN A HIGH-SCHOOL UNIFORM.
A HIGH-SCHOOL UNIFORM?
NOD NOD
YUP.
OH RIGHT, FORGOT TA INTRODUCE MYSELF.
THE NAME'S SORATA ARISUGAWA. YOU CAN CALL ME "SORA" FOR SHORT!

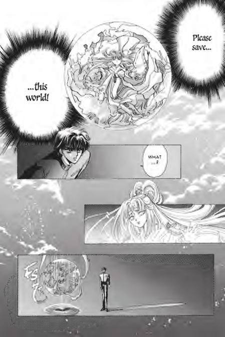

...
... DON'T GOT MUCH OF A SENSE OF HUMOR, DO YA?
YOU'D NEVER MAKE IT IN OSAKA.
WHO IS THIS PERSON WHO HURT KAMUI?
BEATS ME.
BUT ONE THING'S FOR SURE.
HE'S GOTTA BE ANOTHER PERSON INVOLVED WITH *THE END OF THE WORLD*.

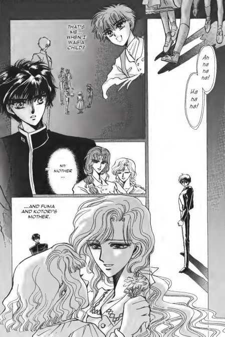

"THE END...
...OF THE WORLD"?

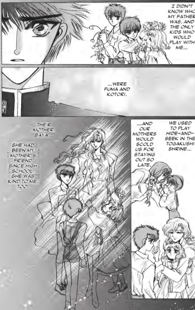

HE'S SWEATING SO MUCH...
I WONDER IF HIS WOUNDS ARE HURTING.
OR MAYBE...
...HE'S HAVING A BAD DREAM?
WHERE AM I...?
THIS IS... THE EARTH...?

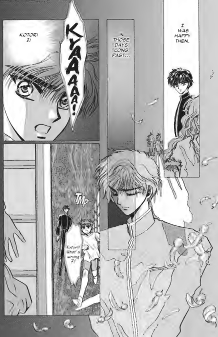

THERE'S SOMETHING INSIDE.
A PERSON!
A... GIRL?

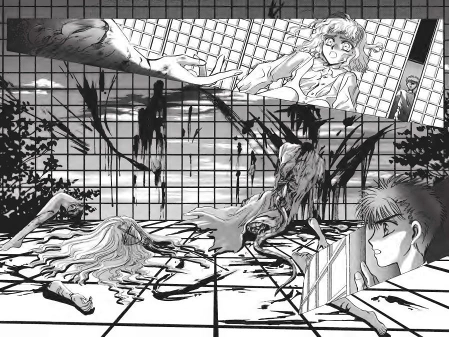

Kamui ...
I've found you at last.
Save us...
HER LIPS DIDN'T MOVE... I HEARD HER VOICE DIRECTLY INSIDE MY HEAD.
Kamui.
WHO IS SHE ?!
"SAVE" YOU?

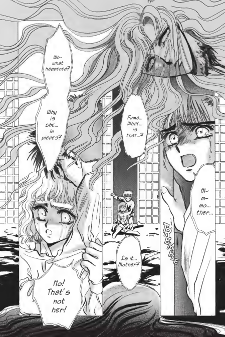

Please save...
...this world!
WHAT ...?

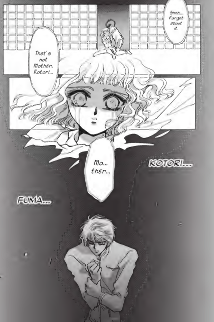

Ah ha ha ha!
Ha ha ha!
THAT'S ME... WHEN I WAS A CHILD?
MY MOTHER ...
...AND FUMA AND KOTORI'S MOTHER.

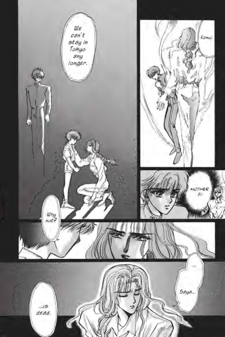

I DIDN'T KNOW WHO MY FATHER WAS, AND THE ONLY KIDS WHO WOULD PLAY WITH ME...
...WERE FUMA AND KOTORI.
WE USED TO PLAY HIDE-AND-SEEK IN THE TOGAKUSHI SHRINE...
...AND OUR MOTHERS WOULD SCOLD US FOR STAYING OUT SO LATE.
THEIR MOTHER SAYA...
SHE HAD BEEN MY MOTHER'S FRIEND SINCE HIGH SCHOOL. SHE WAS KIND TO ME, TOO.

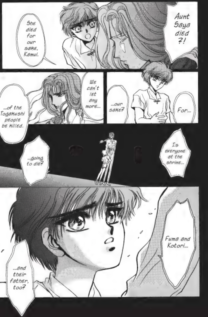

I WAS HAPPY THEN.
THOSE DAYS LONG PAST...
KYAAAAA!
KOTORI ?!
TMP
Kotori! What's wrong?!

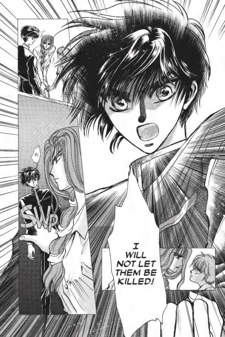


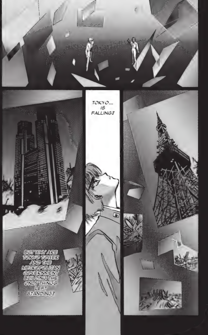

Fums... What... is that...?
M- m- mo... ther...
TREMBLE
Is it... Mother?
Wh- what happened?
Why is she... in pieces?
No! That's not her!

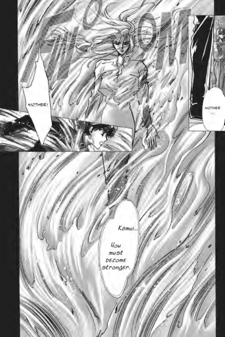

Shhh... Forget about it.
That's not Mother, Kotori...
Mo... ther...
KOTORI...
FUMA...

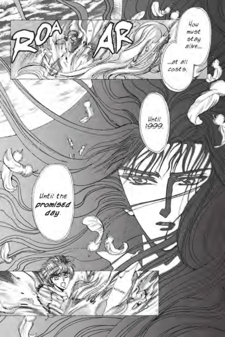

Kamui...
We can't stay in Tokyo any longer.
MOTHER ?!
Why not?
...
Saya...
...is dead.

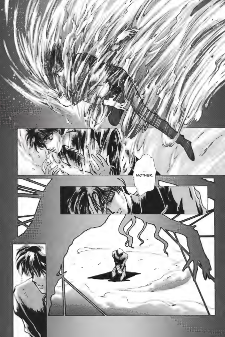

Aunt Saya died ?!
She died for our sake, Kamui.
For...
...our sake?
We can't let any more...
...of the Togakushi people be killed.
Is everyone at the shrine...
...going to die?
Fuma and Kotori...
...and their father, too?

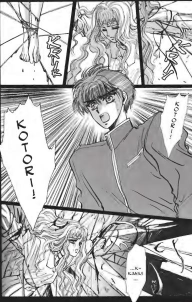

?!
SWP
I WILL NOT LET THEM BE KILLED!

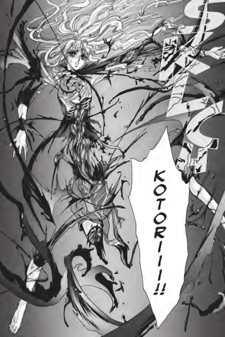

TOKYO... IS FALLING?
BUT WHY ARE TOKYO TOWER AND THE METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT BUILDING THE ONLY THINGS LEFT STANDING?

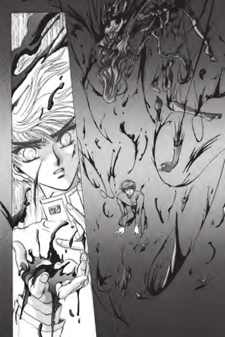

WHOOM
MOTHER
MOTHER!
Kamui...
You must become stronger.

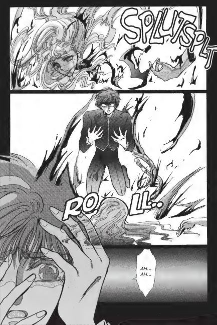

You must stay alive...
...at all costs.
ROAAR
Until 1999.
Until the **promised** day.

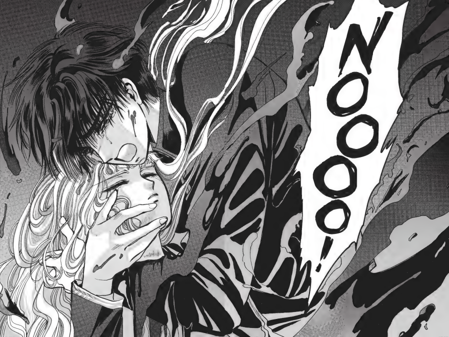

...
MOTHER.

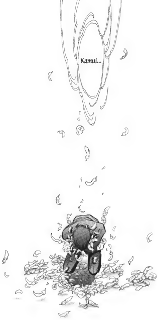

KRII
KRIIK
KOTORI!
KOTORI!
...K-KAMUI ...

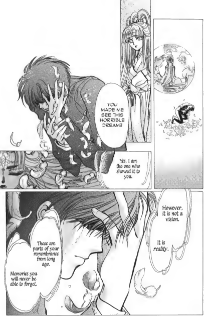

SWNCH
KOTORIII!!

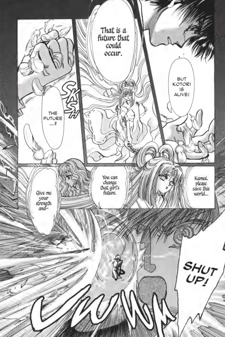


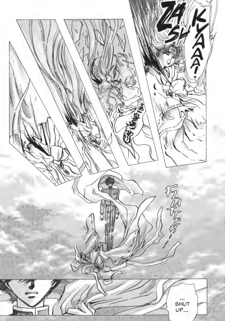

SPLUTSPLT
ROLL..
AH...
AH...

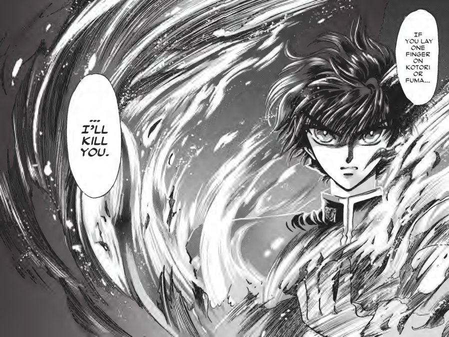

NOOOO!

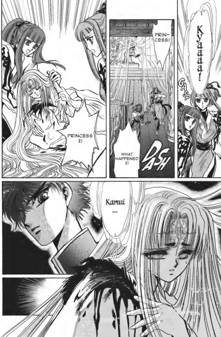

Kamui...

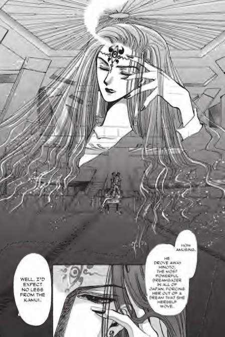

YOU MADE ME SEE THIS HORRIBLE DREAM?
Yes, I am the one who showed it to you.
However, it is not a vision.
It is *reality*.
These are parts of your remembrance from long ago.
Memories you will never be able to forget.

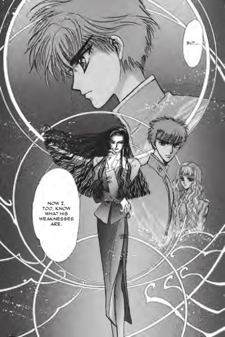

BUT KOTORI IS ALIVE!
That is a future that could occur.
SKSH
THE FUTURE ...?
Kamui, please save this world...
You can change that girl's future.
Give me your strength and—
SHUT UP!
VWUMP

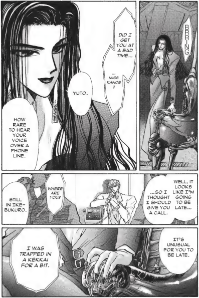

KYAAA!
ZASH
FLUTTER...
...SHUT UP...

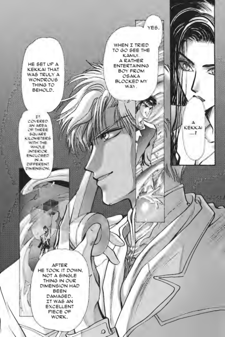

IF YOU LAY ONE FINGER ON KOTORI OR FUMA...
... I'LL KILL YOU.

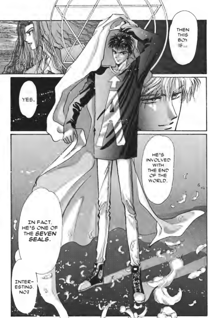

Kyaaaa!
GASP
PRIN-CESS!
WHAT HAPPENED?!
DASH
PRINCESS?!
Kamui ...

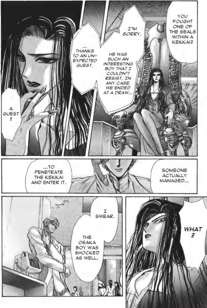

HOW AMUSING.
HE DROVE AWAY HINOTO, THE MOST POWERFUL DREAMGAZER IN ALL OF JAPAN, FORCING HER OUT OF A DREAM THAT SHE HERSELF WOVE.
WELL, I'D EXPECT NO LESS FROM THE KAMUI.

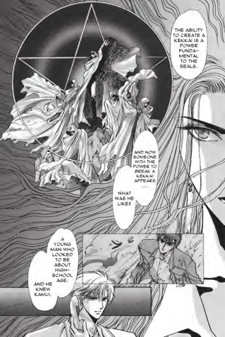

BUT...
NOW I, TOO, KNOW WHAT HIS WEAKNESSES ARE.

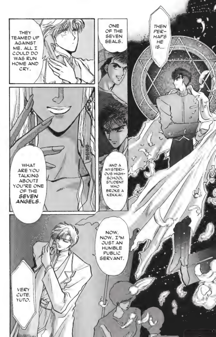

BRRRING
DID I GET YOU AT A BAD TIME...
...MISS KANOE?
YUTO.
HOW RARE TO HEAR YOUR VOICE OVER A PHONE LINE.
WELL, IT LOOKS LIKE I'M GOING TO BE LATE...
...SO I THOUGHT I SHOULD GIVE YOU A CALL.
WHERE ARE YOU?
STILL IN IKEBUKURO.
IT'S UNUSUAL FOR YOU TO BE LATE.
I WAS TRAPPED IN A KEKKAI FOR A BIT.

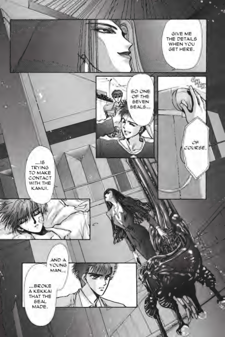

YES.
WHEN I TRIED TO GO SEE THE KAMUI, A RATHER ENTERTAINING BOY FROM OSAKA BLOCKED MY WAY.
HE SET UP A KEKKAI THAT WAS TRULY A WONDROUS THING TO BEHOLD.
A KEKKAI ...?
IT COVERED AN AREA OF THREE SQUARE KILOMETERS WITH THE WHOLE INTERIOR ENCLOSED IN A DIFFERENT DIMENSION.
AFTER HE TOOK IT DOWN, NOT A SINGLE THING IN OUR DIMENSION HAD BEEN DAMAGED. IT WAS AN EXCELLENT PIECE OF WORK.

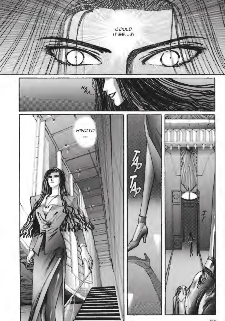

THEN THIS BOY IS...
YES.
HE'S INVOLVED WITH THE END OF THE WORLD.
IN FACT, HE'S ONE OF THE ***SEVEN SEALS***.
INTERESTING, NO?

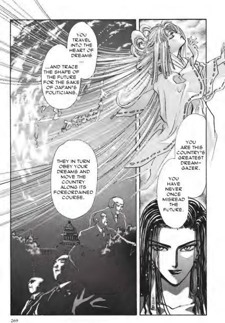

YOU FOUGHT ONE OF THE SEALS WITHIN A KEKKAI?
I'M SORRY.
HE WAS SUCH AN INTERESTING BOY THAT I COULDN'T RESIST. IN ANY CASE, WE ENDED AT A DRAW...
...THANKS TO AN UN-EXPECTED GUEST.
A GUEST?
SOMEONE ACTUALLY MANAGED...
...TO PENETRATE THE KEKKAI AND ENTER IT.
WHAT?
I SWEAR.
THE OSAKA BOY WAS SHOCKED AS WELL.

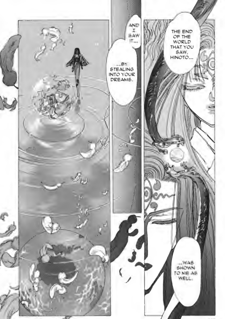

THE ABILITY TO CREATE A KEKKAI IS A POWER FUNDAMENTAL TO THE SEALS.
AND NOW SOMEONE WITH THE POWER TO *BREAK* A KEKKAI APPEARS
WHAT WAS HE LIKE?
A YOUNG MAN WHO LOOKED TO BE ABOUT HIGH-SCHOOL AGE.
AND HE KNEW KAMUI.

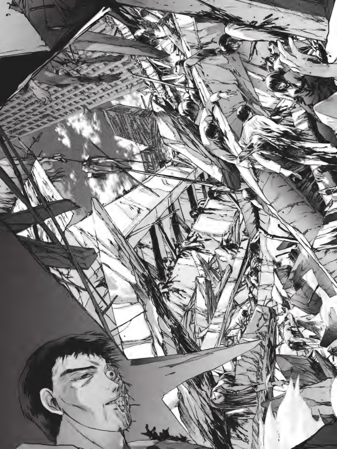

THEN PERHAPS HE IS...
ONE OF THE SEVEN SEALS.
THEY TEAMED UP AGAINST ME. ALL I COULD DO WAS RUN HOME AND CRY.
AND A MYSTERIOUS HIGH-SCHOOL STUDENT WHO BROKE A KEKKAI.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? YOU'RE ONE OF THE **SEVEN ANGELS**.
NOW, NOW. I'M JUST AN HUMBLE PUBLIC SERVANT.
VERY CUTE, YUTO.

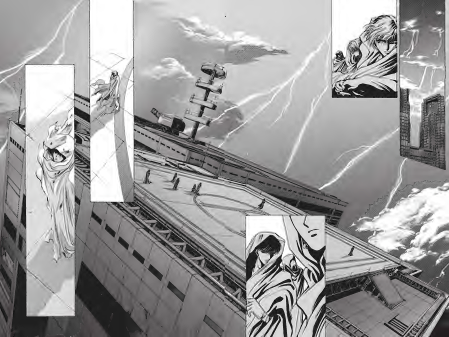

GIVE ME THE DETAILS WHEN YOU GET HERE.
CHAK
OF COURSE.
SO ONE OF THE SEVEN SEALS...
...IS TRYING TO MAKE CONTACT WITH THE KAMUI.
AND A YOUNG MAN...
...BROKE A KEKKAI THAT THE SEAL MADE.

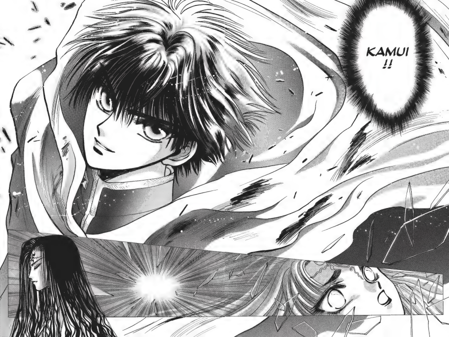

COULD IT BE...?!
HA HA...
HINOTO ...
TAP TAP
TAP TAP

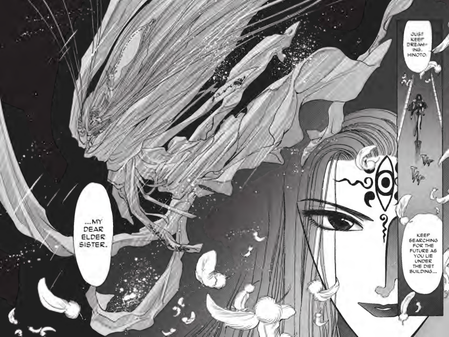

YOU ARE THIS COUNTRY'S GREATEST DREAM-GAZER.
YOU HAVE NEVER ONCE MISREAD THE FUTURE.
YOU TRAVEL INTO THE HEART OF DREAMS ...
...AND TRACE THE SHAPE OF THE FUTURE FOR THE SAKE OF JAPAN'S POLITICIANS.
THEY IN TURN OBEY YOUR DREAMS AND MOVE THE COUNTRY ALONG ITS FOREORDAINED COURSE.

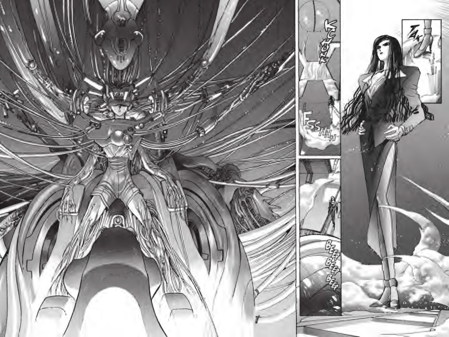

THE END OF THE WORLD THAT YOU SAW, HINOTO...
...WAS SHOWN TO ME AS WELL.
AND I SAW IT...
...BY STEALING INTO YOUR DREAMS.

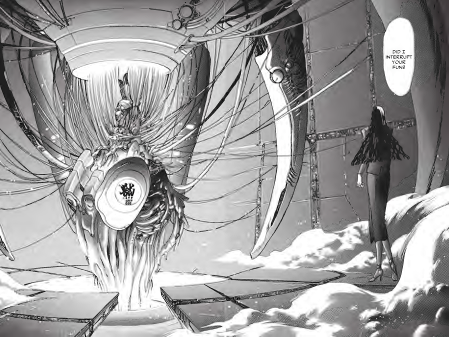


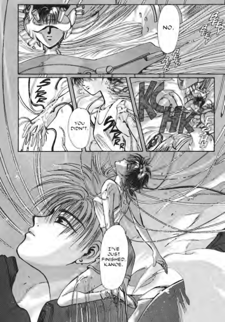


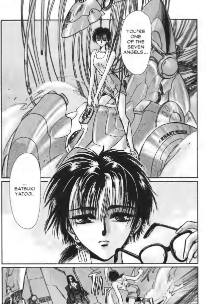

KAMUI !!

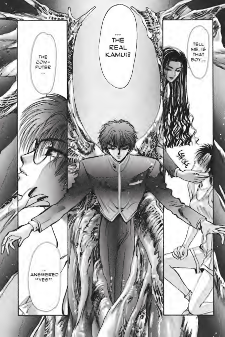

JUST KEEP DREAMING, HINOTO.
TAP
TAP
KEEP SEARCHING FOR THE FUTURE AS YOU LIE UNDER THE DIET BUILDING...
...MY DEAR ELDER SISTER.

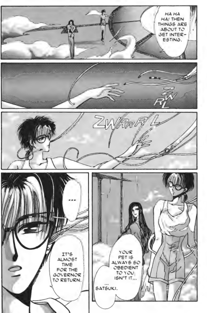

TAK
KCHUNK
FSSHHH
BEEP BEEP BEEP

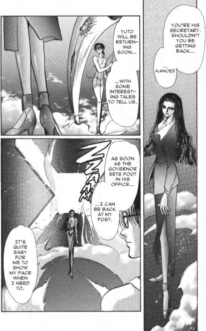

DID I INTERRUPT YOUR FUN?

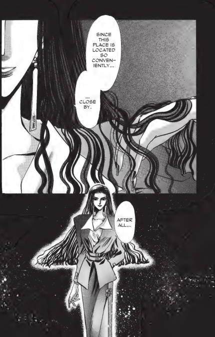

BEEP
BEEP
NO.
BEEP
BEEP
SHH
KCHK
SVRRR
YOU DIDN'T.
SIRR
I'VE JUST FINISHED, KANOE.

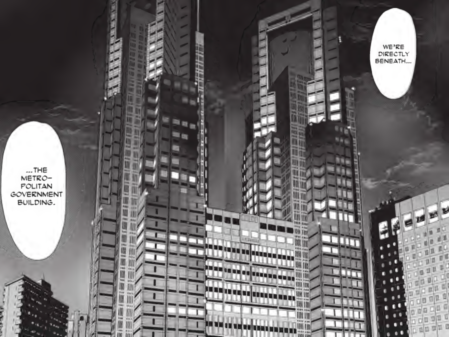

YOU'RE ONE OF THE SEVEN ANGELS...
... SATSUKI YATOJI.
TMP

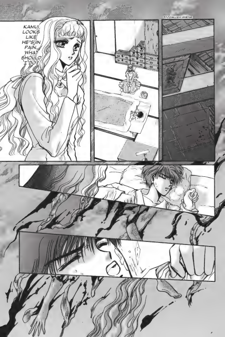

TELL ME... IS THAT BOY...
... THE REAL KAMUI!?
STROKE
THE COMPUTER ...
... ANSWERED "YES".

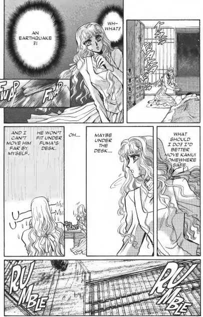

HA HA HA! THEN THINGS ARE ABOUT TO GET INTERESTING.
ZWRL
ZWARRL
YOUR PET IS ALWAYS SO OBEDIENT TO YOU, ISN'T IT...
... SATSUKI.
...
IT'S ALMOST TIME FOR THE GOVERNOR TO RETURN.

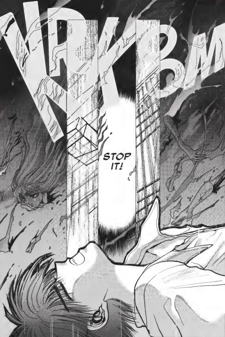

YUTO WILL BE RETURNING SOON...
...WITH SOME INTERESTING TALES TO TELL US.
YOU'RE HIS SECRETARY. SHOULDN'T YOU BE GETTING BACK...
... KANOE!?
ZZAAM
AS SOON AS THE GOVERNOR SETS FOOT IN HIS OFFICE...
...I CAN BE BACK AT MY POST.
IT'S QUITE EASY FOR ME TO SHOW MY FACE WHEN I NEED TO.

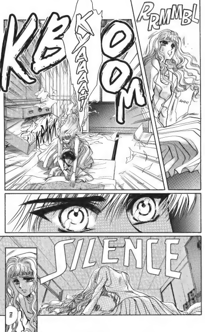

SINCE THIS PLACE IS LOCATED SO CONVENIENTLY...
...CLOSE BY.
AFTER ALL...

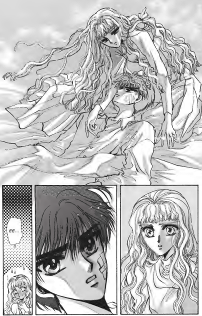

WE'RE DIRECTLY BENEATH...
...THE METRO-POLITAN GOVERNMENT BUILDING.

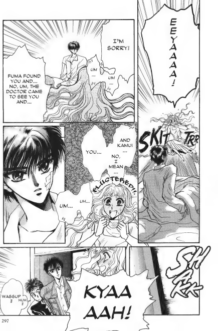

KAMUI, LOOKS LIKE HE'S IN PAIN. WHAT SHOULD I DO?

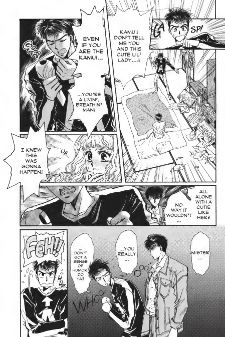

WH-WHAT?
AN EARTHQUAKE?!
KASS
KLATATA
KASS
FWAP
FWAP
WHAT SHOULD I DO? I'D BETTER MOVE KAMUI SOMEWHERE SAFE...
MAYBE UNDER THE DESK...
OH...
HE WON'T FIT UNDER FUMA'S DESK.
AND I CAN'T MOVE HIM FAR BY MYSELF.
IT'S TINY!
RUMBLE
RUMBLE

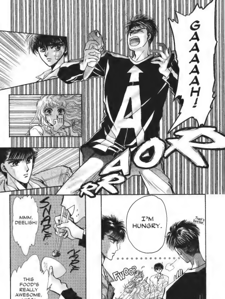

VRKBM
STOP IT!

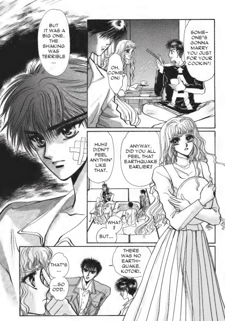

RRMMBL
AHH!
KBOOOM
KYAAAAH!
KRAKK
SILENCE
?!

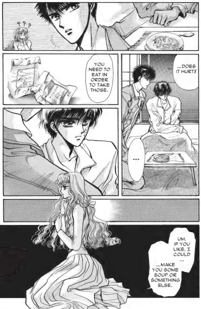

EE...

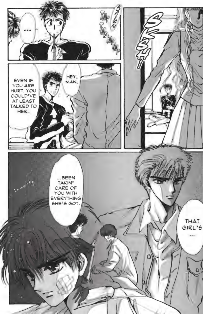

EEYAAAAA!
I'M SORRY!
UM ...
UM ...
FUMA FOUND YOU AND... NO, UM, THE DOCTOR CAME TO SEE YOU AND...
SKIT
TRR
AND KAMUI ... NO, I MEAN ...
YOU...
FLUSTERED!!
UH...
UM...
SHAKK
KYAA AAH!
HUH?
WASSUP?

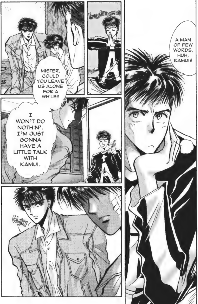

GASP!
KAMUI! DON'T TELL ME YOU AND THIS CUTE LIL' LADY...!!
GRRP
EVEN IF YOU ARE THE KAMUI...
...YOU'RE A LIVIN', BREATHIN' MAN!
UH...
I KNEW THIS WAS GONNA HAPPEN!
ALL ALONE WITH A CUTIE LIKE HER?
NO WAY IT WOULDN'T...
MISTER...
...YOU REALLY...
...DON'T GOT A SENSE OF HUMOR DO YA?
WHOO
FEH!!

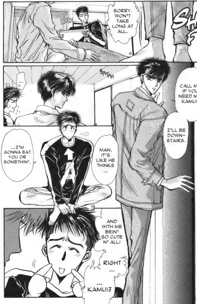

GAAAAAH!
ROARR
I'M HUNGRY.
That's better.
FWOOP
SNARF
MMM, DEELISH!
NARF
THIS FOOD'S REALLY AWESOME, MISS!

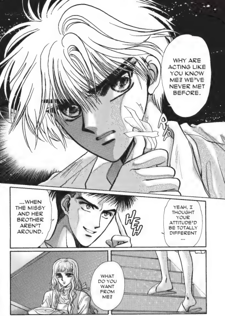

SOME-ONE'S GONNA MARRY YOU JUST FOR YOUR COOKIN'!
OH, COME ON!
ANYWAY, DID YOU ALL FEEL THAT EARTHQUAKE EARLIER?
HUH? DIDN'T FEEL ANYTHIN' LIKE THAT.
WHAT?
BUT...
BUT IT WAS A BIG ONE. THE SHAKING WAS TERRIBLE ...
THERE WAS NO EARTH-QUAKE, KOTORI.
THAT'S ...
...SO ODD.

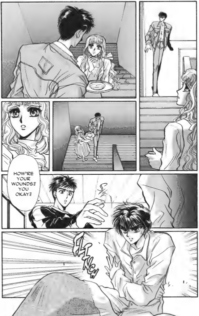

? ? ?
...DOES IT HURT?
YOU NEED TO EAT IN ORDER TO TAKE THOSE.
...
UM, IF YOU LIKE, I COULD ...
...MAKE YOU SOME SOUP OR SOMETHING ELSE.

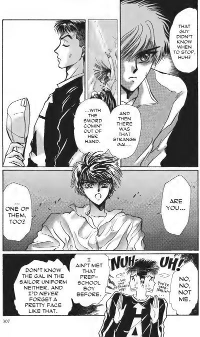

SKSH!!
BATAN
TAP TAP TAP TAP TAP
...
HEY, MAN.
EVEN IF YOU ARE HURT, YOU COULD'VE AT LEAST TALKED TO HER...
THAT GIRL'S ...
...BEEN TAKIN' CARE OF YOU WITH EVERYTHING SHE'S GOT.

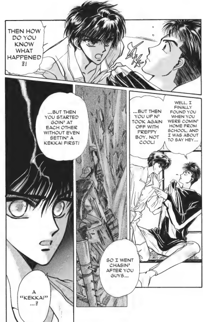

Thanks for the meal
MISTER, COULD YOU LEAVE US ALONE FOR A WHILE?
I WON'T DO NOTHIN'. I'M JUST GONNA HAVE A LITTLE TALK WITH KAMUI.
CLANK
A MAN OF FEW WORDS, HUH, KAMUI?

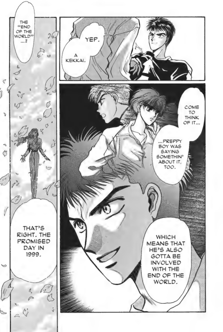

SHF
SORRY, WON'T TAKE LONG AT ALL.
HOIK
BATAM
CALL ME IF YOU NEED ME, KAMUI.
I'LL BE DOWN-STAIRS.
...
MAN, IT'S LIKE HE THINKS ...
...I'M GONNA EAT YOU OR SOMETHIN'.
AND WITH ME BEIN' SO CUTE N' ALL!
RIGHT ...
... KAMUI!?

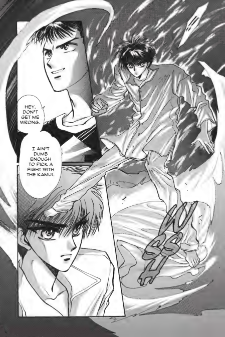

WHY ARE ACTING LIKE YOU KNOW ME? WE'VE NEVER MET BEFORE.
RIP
YEAH, I THOUGHT YOUR ATTITUDE'D BE TOTALLY DIFFERENT ...
HEH
...WHEN THE MISSY AND HER BROTHER AREN'T AROUND.
WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM ME?

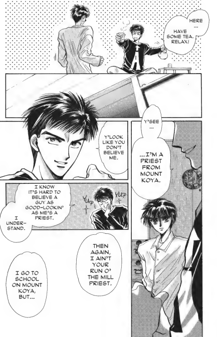

HOW'RE YOUR WOUNDS? YOU OKAY?
FLINCH

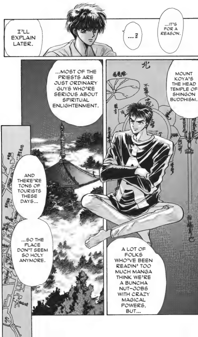

THAT GUY DIDN'T KNOW WHEN TO STOP, HUH?
AND THEN THERE WAS THAT STRANGE GAL...
...WITH THE SWORD COMIN' OUT OF HER HAND.
ARE YOU...
...ONE OF THEM, TOO?
NUH-UH!
NO, NO, NOT ME.
You're good-lookin'...
...but your attitude's ugly!
I AIN'T MET THAT PREP-SCHOOL BOY BEFORE.
DON'T KNOW THE GAL IN THE SAILOR UNIFORM NEITHER. AND I'D *NEVER* FORGET A PRETTY FACE LIKE THAT.

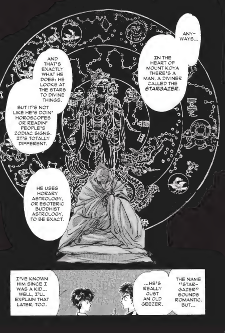

THEN HOW DO YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENED ?!
WELL, I FINALLY FOUND YOU WHEN YOU WERE COMIN' HOME FROM SCHOOL, AND I WAS ABOUT TO SAY HEY...
...BUT THEN YOU UP N' TOOK AGAIN OFF WITH PREPPY BOY. NOT COOL!
SO I WENT CHASIN' AFTER YOU GUYS...
...BUT THEN YOU STARTED GOIN' AT EACH OTHER WITHOUT EVEN SETTIN' A KEKKAI FIRST!
A "KEKKAI" ...?

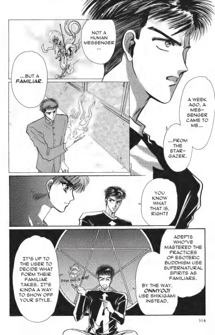

THE "END OF THE WORLD" ...?
YEP.
A KEKKAI.
COME TO THINK OF IT...
...PREPPY BOY WAS SAYING SOMETHIN' ABOUT IT, TOO.
WHICH MEANS THAT HE'S ALSO GOTTA BE INVOLVED WITH THE END OF THE WORLD.
THAT'S RIGHT. THE PROMISED DAY IN 1999.

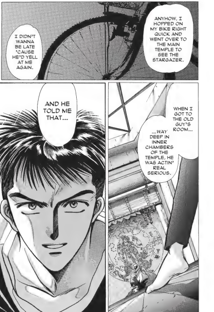

HEY, DON'T GET ME WRONG.
I AIN'T DUMB ENOUGH TO PICK A FIGHT WITH THE KAMUI.
WSSH

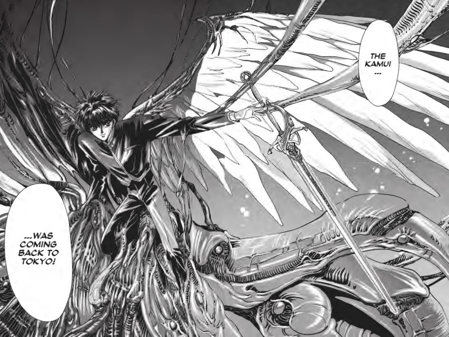

HERE ... HAVE SOME TEA. RELAX!
Y'SEE ...
...I'M A PRIEST FROM MOUNT KOYA.
Y'LOOK LIKE YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME.
I KNOW IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE A GUY AS GOOD-LOOKIN' AS ME'S A PRIEST.
YUP YUP
I UNDERSTAND.
THEN AGAIN, I AIN'T YOUR RUN O' THE MILL PRIEST.
I GO TO SCHOOL ON MOUNT KOYA, BUT...

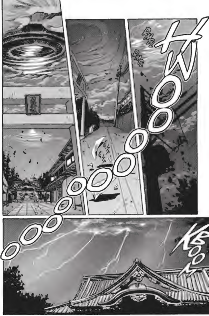

...IT'S FOR A REASON.
...?
I'LL EXPLAIN LATER.
MOUNT KOYA'S THE HEAD TEMPLE OF SHINGON BUDDHISM.
A LOT OF FOLKS WHO'VE BEEN READIN' TOO MUCH MANGA THINK WE'RE A BUNCHA NUT-JOBS WITH CRAZY MAGICAL POWERS, BUT...
...MOST OF THE PRIESTS ARE JUST ORDINARY GUYS WHO'RE SERIOUS ABOUT SPIRITUAL ENLIGHTENMENT.
AND THERE'RE TONS OF TOURISTS THESE DAYS...
...SO THE PLACE DON'T SEEM SO HOLY ANYMORE.

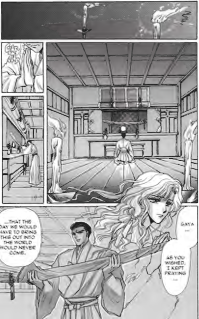

ANYWAYS...
IN THE HEART OF MOUNT KOYA THERE'S A MAN, A DIVINER CALLED THE *STARGAZER*.
AND THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT HE DOES: HE LOOKS AT THE STARS TO DIVINE THINGS.
BUT IT'S NOT LIKE HE'S DOIN' HOROSCOPES OR READIN' PEOPLE'S ZODIAC SIGNS. IT'S TOTALLY DIFFERENT.
HE USES HORARY ASTROLOGY, OR ESOTERIC BUDDHIST ASTROLOGY, TO BE EXACT.
THE NAME "STARGAZER" SOUNDS ROMANTIC, BUT...
...HE'S REALLY JUST AN OLD GEEZER.
I'VE KNOWN HIM SINCE I WAS A KID... WELL, I'LL EXPLAIN THAT LATER, TOO.

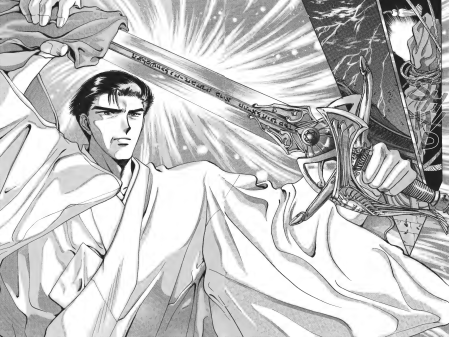

A WEEK AGO, A MESSENGER CAME TO ME...
...FROM THE STARGAZER.
NOT A HUMAN MESSENGER...
...BUT A **FAMILIAR**.
YOU KNOW WHAT THAT IS, RIGHT?
ADEPTS WHO'VE MASTERED THE PRACTICES OF ESOTERIC BUDDHISM USE SUPERNATURAL SPIRITS AS FAMILIARS.
BY THE WAY, ***ONMYOJI*** USE SHIKIGAMI INSTEAD.
IT'S UP TO THE USER TO DECIDE WHAT FORM THEIR FAMILIAR TAKES. IT'S KINDA A WAY TO SHOW OFF YOUR STYLE.
Even this is okay!

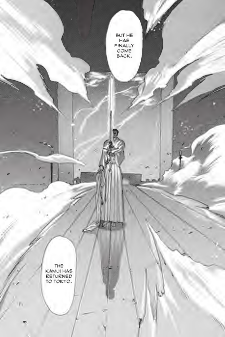

ANYHOW, I HOPPED ON MY BIKE RIGHT QUICK AND WENT OVER TO THE MAIN TEMPLE TO SEE THE STARGAZER.
I DIDN'T WANNA BE LATE 'CAUSE HE'D YELL AT ME AGAIN.
WHEN I GOT TO THE OLD GUY'S ROOM...
...WAY DEEP IN INNER CHAMBERS OF THE TEMPLE, HE WAS ACTIN' REAL SERIOUS.
AND HE TOLD ME THAT...

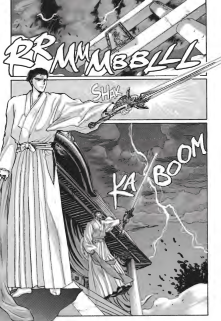

THE KAMUI ...
...WAS COMING BACK TO TOKYO!

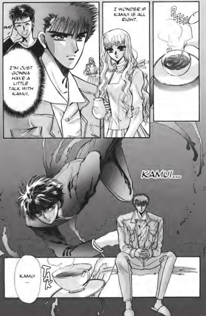

RMBL
RMBL
HWOOOOOOOOOOOO
FWSP
FWSP
KBOOM

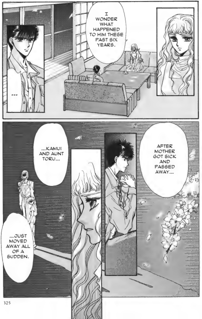

SAYA ...
AS YOU WISHED, I KEPT PRAYING ...
...THAT THE DAY WE WOULD HAVE TO BRING THIS OUT INTO THE WORLD WOULD NEVER COME.

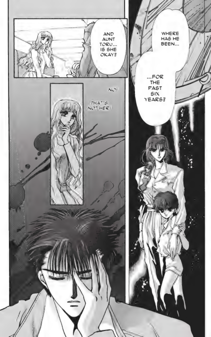

SHUP

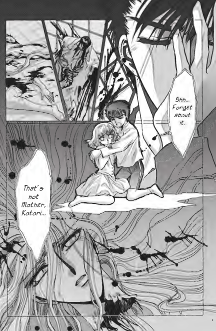

BUT HE HAS FINALLY COME BACK.
THE KAMUI HAS RETURNED TO TOKYO.

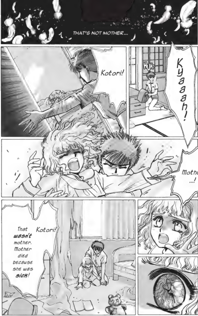

RRMMMBBLLL
SHAK
KA BOOM

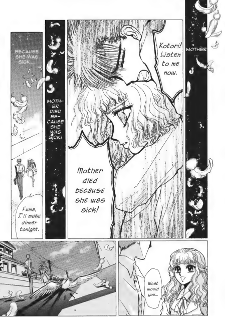

PLISH
I WONDER IF KAMUI IS ALL RIGHT.
OUF!
I'M JUST GONNA HAVE A LITTLE TALK WITH KAMUI.
KAMUI...
TAK
KAMUI ...

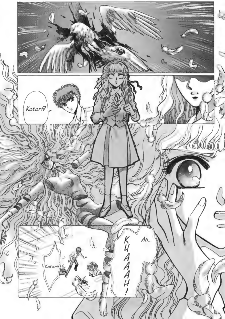

I WONDER WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM THESE PAST SIX YEARS.
...
AFTER MOTHER GOT SICK AND PASSED AWAY...
...KAMUI AND AUNT TORU...
...JUST MOVED AWAY ALL OF A SUDDEN.

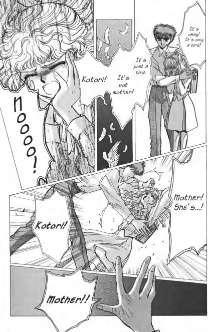

WHERE HAS HE BEEN...
...FOR THE PAST SIX YEARS?
AND AUNT TORU... IS SHE OKAY?
NO!
THAT'S NOT HER!

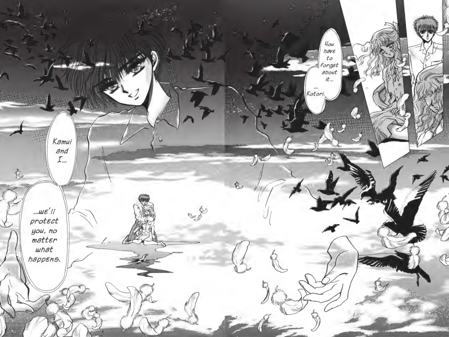

Shh... Forget about it.
That's not Mother, Kotori...

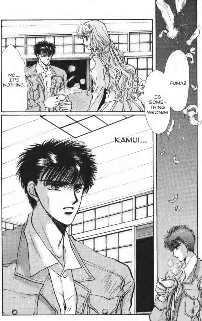

THAT'S NOT MOTHER...
Kyaaaah!
Kotori!
Mother ....!
Kotori!
That **wasn't** mother. Mother died because she was **sick**!

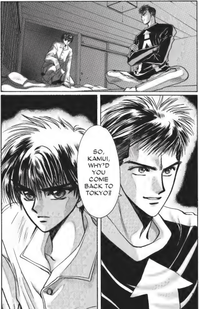

MOTHER ...
Kotori! Listen to me now.
Mother died because she was sick!
MOTHER DIED BECAUSE SHE WAS SICK!
BECAUSE SHE WAS SICK...
Fuma, I'll make dinner tonight.
What would you...

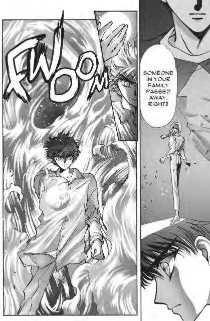

Kotori!?
Ah...
KUAAAAH!
Kotori!

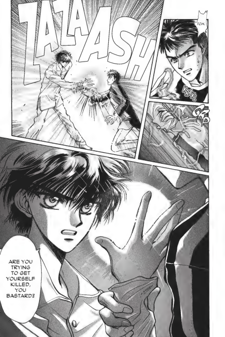

It's okay! It's only a bird!
It's just a bird.
It's not mother!
Kotori!
Noooo!
Mother! She's...!
Kotori!
Mother!!

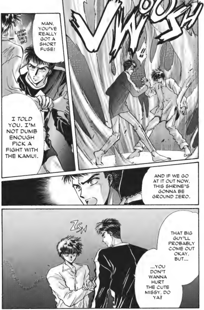

You have to forget about it... ...Kotori...
Kamui and I...
...we'll protect you, no matter what happens.

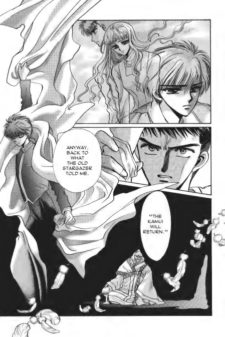

FUMA?
IS SOMETHING WRONG?
NO... IT'S NOTHING.
KAMUI...

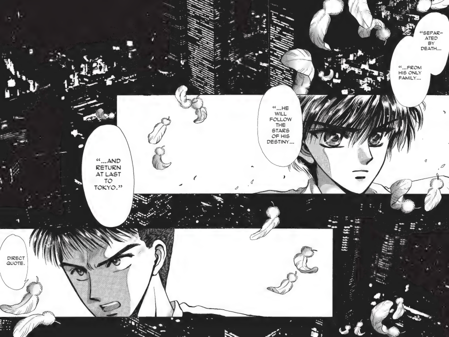

SO, KAMUI, WHY'D YOU COME BACK TO TOKYO?

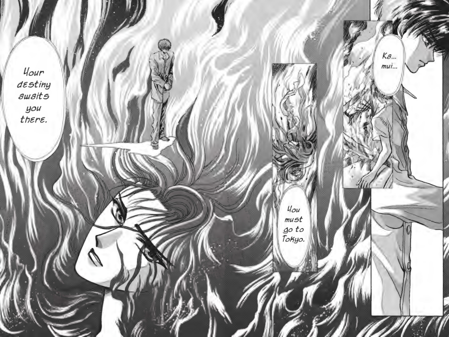

SOMEONE IN YOUR FAMILY PASSED AWAY, RIGHT?
FWOOM

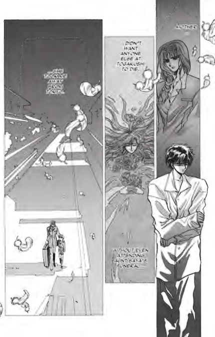

ZAZAASH
TCH.
KRAKL
GRP
ARE YOU TRYING TO GET YOURSELF KILLED, YOU BASTARD?

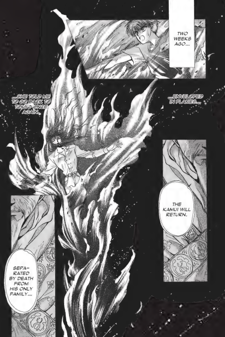

VWOOSH
CAP
Listen to me for a sec!
MAN, YOU'VE REALLY GOT A SHORT FUSE!
I *TOLD* YOU. I'M NOT DUMB ENOUGH PICK A FIGHT WITH THE KAMUI.
AND IF WE GO AT IT OUT NOW, THIS SHRINE'S GONNA BE GROUND ZERO.
ZSH
THAT BIG GUY'LL PROBABLY COME OUT OKAY, BUT...
...YOU DON'T WANNA HURT THE CUTE MISSY, DO YA?

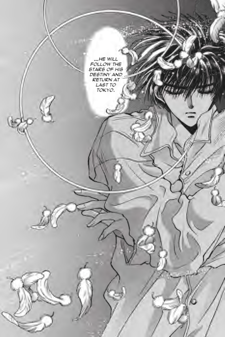

ANYWAY, BACK TO WHAT THE OLD STARGAZER TOLD ME.
"THE KAMUI WILL RETURN."

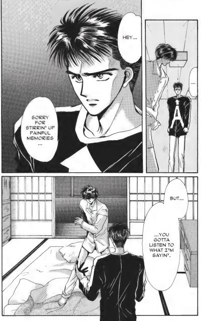

"SEPARATED BY DEATH...
"...FROM HIS ONLY FAMILY...
"...HE WILL FOLLOW THE STARS OF HIS DESTINY...
"...AND RETURN AT LAST TO TOKYO."
DIRECT QUOTE.

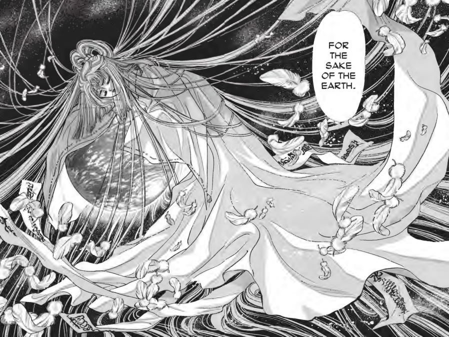

Ka... mui...
You must go to Tokyo.
Your destiny awaits you there.

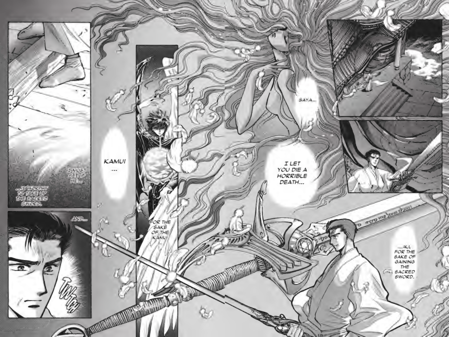

MOTHER...
DIDN'T WANT ANYONE ELSE AT TOGAKUSHI TO DIE.
WITHOUT EVEN ATTENDING AUNT SAYA'S FUNERAL...
SHE TOOK ME AWAY FROM SCHOOL.

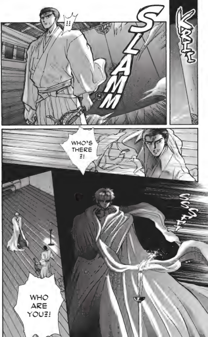

TWO WEEKS AGO...
...ENVELOPED IN FLAMES...
...SHE TOLD ME TO GO BACK TO TOKYO ONCE AGAIN.
THE KAMUI WILL RETURN.
SEPARATED BY DEATH FROM HIS ONLY FAMILY...

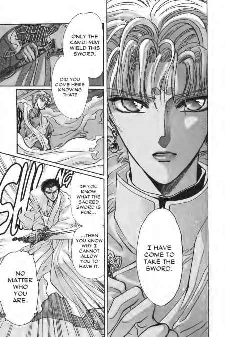

...HE WILL FOLLOW THE STARS OF HIS DESTINY AND RETURN AT LAST TO TOKYO.

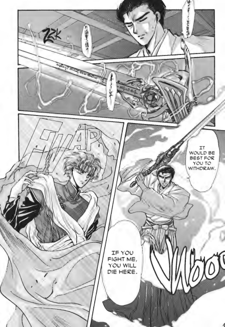

...
HEY...
SORRY FOR STIRRIN' UP PAINFUL MEMORIES ...
BUT...
...YOU GOTTA LISTEN TO WHAT I'M SAYIN'.

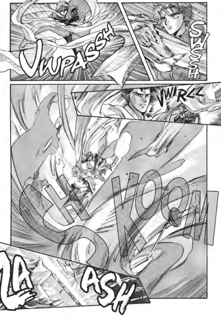

FOR THE SAKE OF THE EARTH.

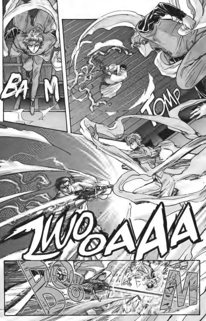

SAYA...
I LET YOU DIE A HORRIBLE DEATH...
...ALL FOR THE SAKE OF GAINING THE SACRED SWORD.
KAMUI ...
FOR THE SAKE OF THE KAMUI
...SAKE OF THE SACRED SWORD.
AND...
TWITCH

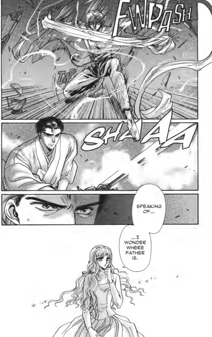

KRII
SLAMM
!!
WHO'S THERE?!
SSSFF
WHO ARE YOU?!

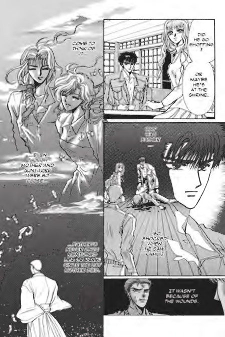

I HAVE COME TO TAKE THE SWORD.
SHIK
ONLY THE KAMUI MAY WIELD THIS SWORD.
DID YOU COME HERE KNOWING THAT?
SHING
IF YOU KNOW WHAT THE SACRED SWORD IS FOR...
...THEN YOU KNOW WHY I CANNOT ALLOW YOU TO HAVE IT.
NO MATTER WHO YOU ARE.

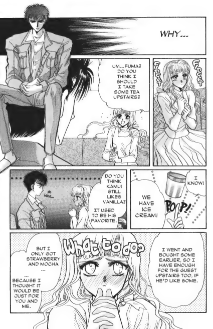

ZZK
IT WOULD BE BEST FOR YOU TO WITHDRAW.
IF YOU FIGHT ME, YOU WILL DIE HERE.
VWOO
FWAP

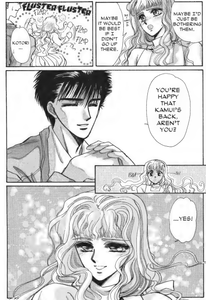

SWSSH
VWUPASSH
VWIRLL
CH KOOM
LA
ASH

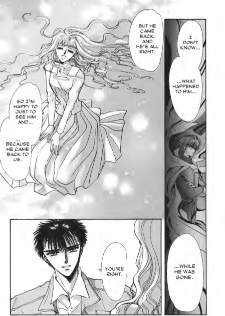

TOMP
BAM
ZWOOAAA
BOOM

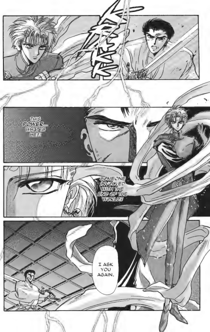

FWPASH
TMP
SHAAAA
SPEAKING OF...
...I WONDER WHERE FATHER IS.

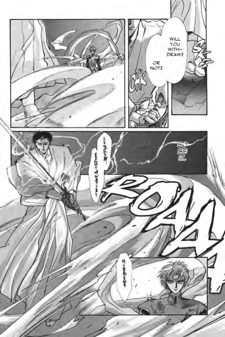

DID HE GO SHOPPING?
OR MAYBE HE'S AT THE SHRINE.
COME TO THINK OF IT...
EVEN THOUGH MOTHER AND AUNT TORU WERE SO CLOSE...
...FATHER'S NEVER ONCE SPOKEN OF HER OR KAMUI SINCE MOTHER DIED.
WHY WAS FATHER
SO SHOCKED WHEN HE SAW KAMUI?
IT WASN'T BECAUSE OF THE WOUNDS...

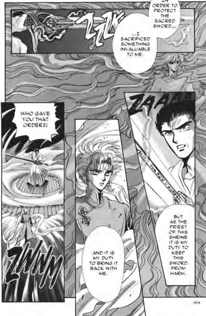

WHY...
FIDGET FIDGET
UM...FUMA? DO YOU THINK I SHOULD TAKE SOME TEA UPSTAIRS?
I KNOW!
WE HAVE ICE CREAM!
POP!
DO YOU THINK KAMUI STILL LIKES VANILLA?
IT USED TO BE HIS FAVORITE.
No idea...
What to do?
I WENT AND BOUGHT SOME EARLIER, SO I HAVE ENOUGH FOR THE GUEST UPSTAIRS TOO, IF HE'D LIKE SOME.
BUT I ONLY GOT STRAWBERRY AND MOCHA ...
... BECAUSE I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE JUST FOR YOU AND ME.

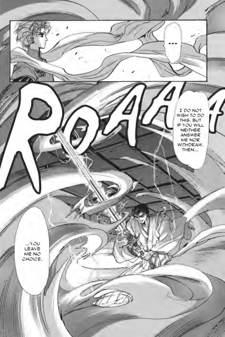

FLUSTER FLUSTER
FLAP!
FLAP
FLAP
KOTORI ...
MAYBE IT WOULD BE BEST IF I DIDN'T GO UP THERE.
MAYBE I'D JUST BE BOTHERING THEM.
YOU'RE HAPPY THAT KAMUI'S BACK, AREN'T YOU?
BA—
—SU
...YES!

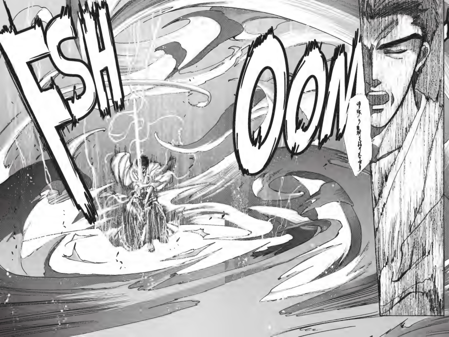

I DON'T KNOW...
...WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM...
...WHILE HE WAS GONE.
BUT HE CAME BACK, AND HE'S ALL RIGHT.
SO I'M HAPPY TO JUST TO SEE HIM AND...
...BECAUSE HE CAME BACK TO US.
YOU'RE RIGHT.

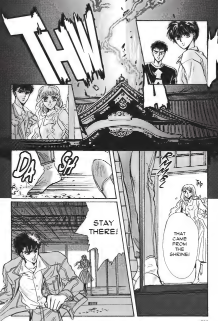

THIS POWER... WHAT IS HE?!
SOMEONE INVOLVED WITH THE END OF THE WORLD?!
I ASK YOU AGAIN.

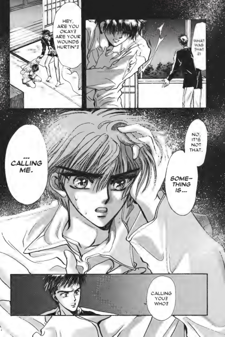

SKFF
WILL YOU WITH-DRAW?
OR NOT?
CHK
SO BE IT.
ROAAA

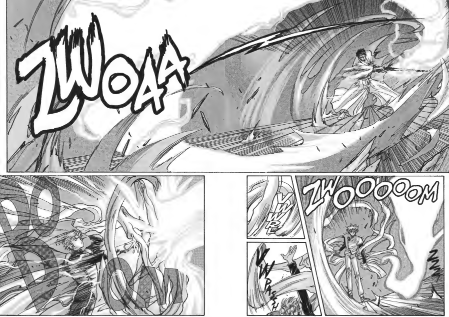

ZZZK
IN ORDER TO PROTECT THE SACRED SWORD...
...I SACRIFICED SOMETHING INVALUABLE TO ME.
ZAA
BUT AS THE PRIEST OF THIS SHRINE IT IS MY DUTY TO KEEP THIS SWORD FROM HARM.
AND IT IS MY DUTY TO BRING IT BACK WITH ME.
WHO GAVE YOU THAT ORDER?!
ZWNM

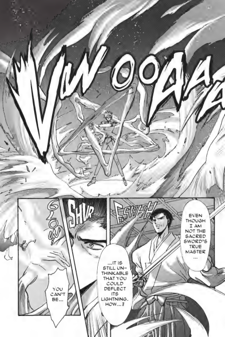

...
ROAAA
I DO NOT WISH TO DO THIS, BUT IF YOU WILL NEITHER ANSWER ME NOR WITHDRAW, THEN...
...YOU LEAVE ME NO CHOICE.

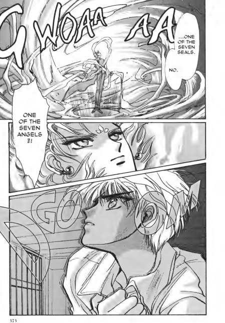

FSH
OOM

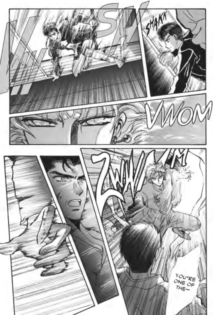

THW
RMMBL
TMP
THAT CAME FROM THE SHRINE!
DA SH
STAY THERE!

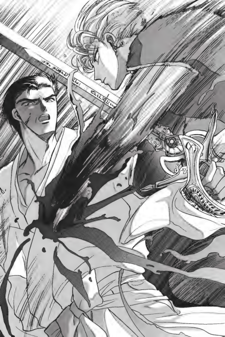

WHAT WAS THAT ...!?
HEY, ARE YOU OKAY? ARE YOUR WOUNDS HURTIN'?
NO, IT'S NOT THAT.
SOME-THING IS...
...CALLING ME.
CALLING YOU? WHO?

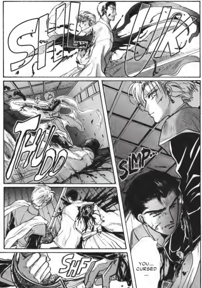

ZWOAA
ZWOOOOOM
ZZZ
VWWRL
VWPASSH
BOOOM

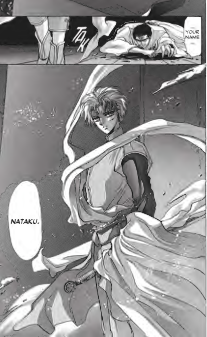

VWOOAAA
FSHHH
EVEN THOUGH I AM NOT THE SACRED SWORD'S TRUE MASTER...
...IT IS STILL UNTHINKABLE THAT YOU COULD DEFLECT ITS LIGHTNING. HOW...?
SHVR
GLOW!
YOU CAN'T BE...

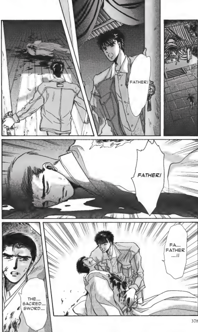

GWOAAA
AA
...ONE OF THE SEVEN SEALS.
NO.
ONE OF THE SEVEN ANGELS ?!
GOOM

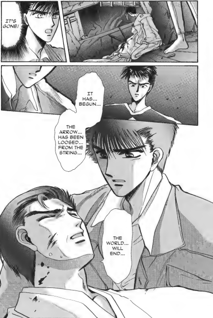

SHAKK
WHSH
VWOM
ZWWM
YOU'RE ONE OF THE—

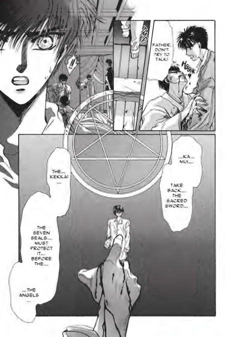


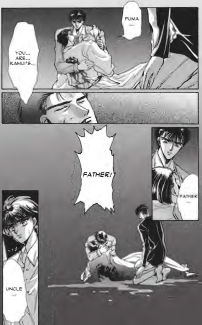

SHLUK
SLMP...
YOU... CURSED ...
THUDD
SHF


YOUR NAME
TAK
NATAKU.


FATHER!
FATHER!
FA... FATHER ...!!
THE... SACRED... SWORD...


IT'S GONE!
IT HAS... BEGUN...
THE ARROW... HAS BEEN LOOSED... FROM THE STRING...
THE WORLD... WILL END...


TMP
FATHER, DON'T TRY TO TALK!
HGGH
!!
...KA MUI...
TAKE BACK... THE SACRED SWORD...
THE... KEKKAI...
THE SEVEN SEALS... MUST PROTECT IT... BEFORE THE...
...THE ANGELS...


FUMA ...
YOU... ARE... KAMUI'S...
FATHER!
FATHER ...
UNCLE ...

THE EARTH'S FINAL SAGA HAS BEGUN.
TO BE CONTINUED...

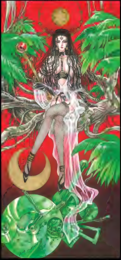
X

X

VOLUME 1, PART 3

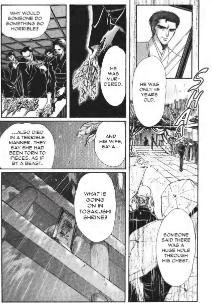
THE SEVEN LUMINARIES I

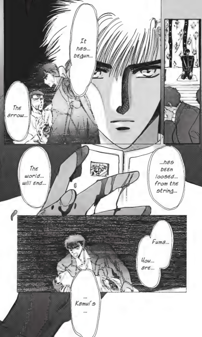
X

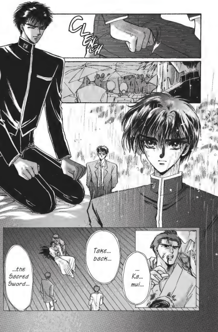


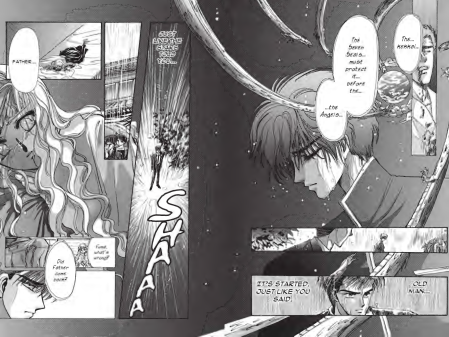
3 THE EMPRESS

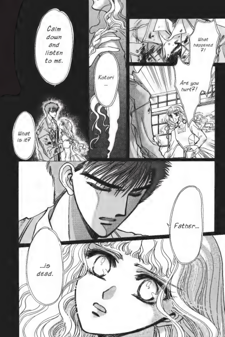
ד

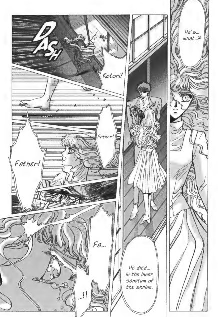

SHHAA
HE WAS ONLY 45 YEARS OLD.
HE WAS MUR-DERED.
WHY WOULD SOMEONE DO SOMETHING SO HORRIBLE?
AND HIS WIFE, SAYA...
...ALSO DIED IN A TERRIBLE MANNER. THEY SAY SHE HAD BEEN TORN TO PIECES, AS IF BY A BEAST.
SOMEONE SAID THERE WAS A HUGE *HOLE* THROUGH HIS CHEST.
WHAT IS GOING ON IN TOGAKUSHI SHRINE?

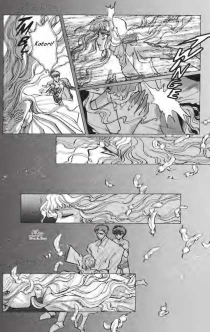

It has... begun...
The arrow...
...has been loosed... from the string...
The world... will end...
Fuma...
You... are...
... Kamui's ...

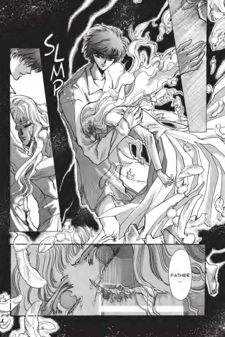

CLENCH
... Ka... mui...
Take... back...
...the Sacred Sword...

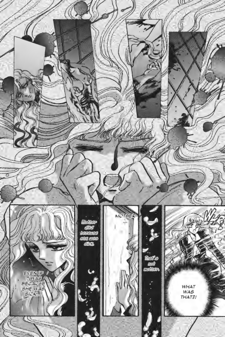

The... kekkai...
The Seven Seals... must protect it... before the...
...the Angels...
IT'S STARTED, JUST LIKE YOU SAID.
OLD MAN...
JUST LIKE THE STARS TOLD YOU...
SHAAAA
FATHER...
Fuma, what's wrong?
Did Father come back?

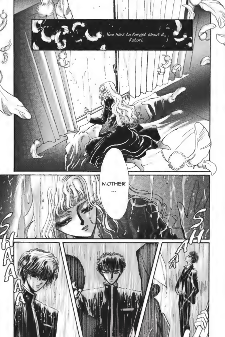

What happened?!
Are you hurt?!
Kotori...
Calm down and listen to me.
What is it?
Father...
...is dead.

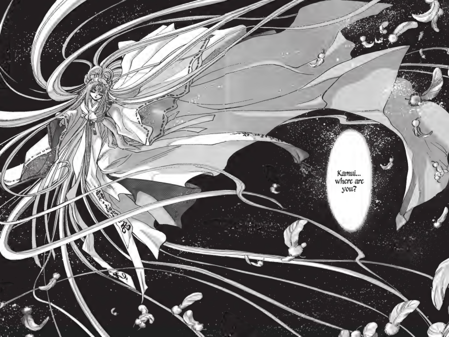

He's... what...?
He died... in the inner sanctum of the shrine.
DASH
Kotori!
Father!
Father!
Fa...
...!!

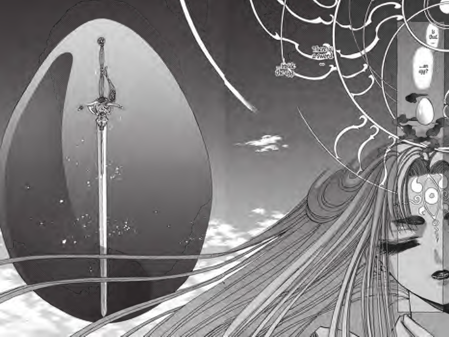

TWINGE
TMBL
Kotori!
FA...

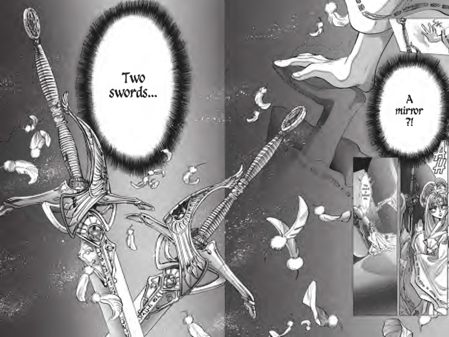

SLMP
FATHER ...

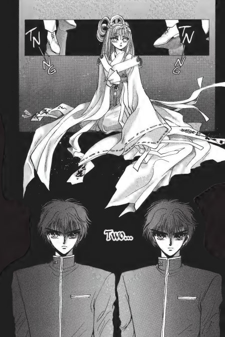

EVEN IF IT WAS BECAUSE SHE WAS SICK...
Mother died because she was sick.
MOTHER ...
That's not mother.
WHR
WHAT WAS THAT?!

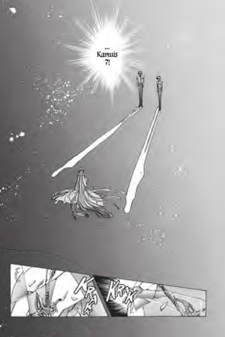

You have to forget about it, Kotori.
MOTHER ...
SHAAAA
SHAAAA

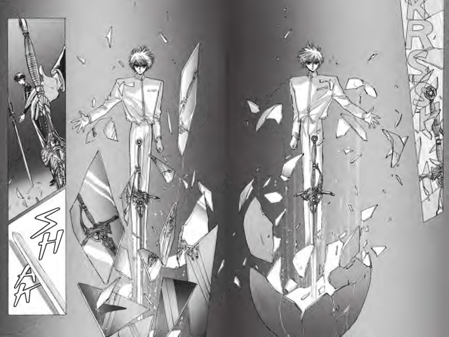

Kamui... where are you?

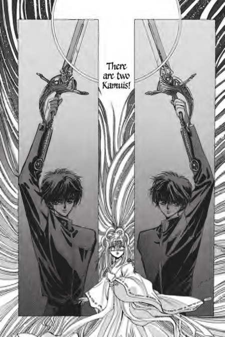

Is that …
…an egg?
There's a sword …
…inside the egg.

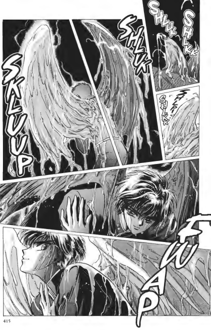

A mirror ?!
Two swords...

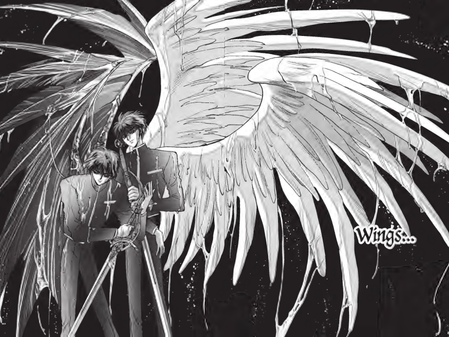

TNNG
TNNG
Two...

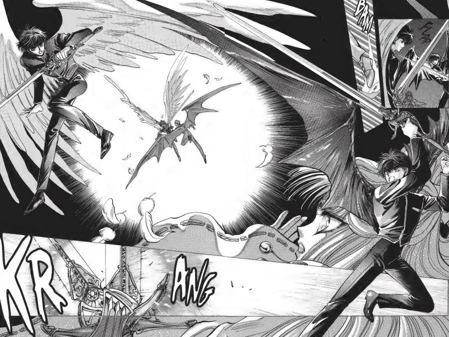

...Kamuis ?!
KRAAA
KRAK"

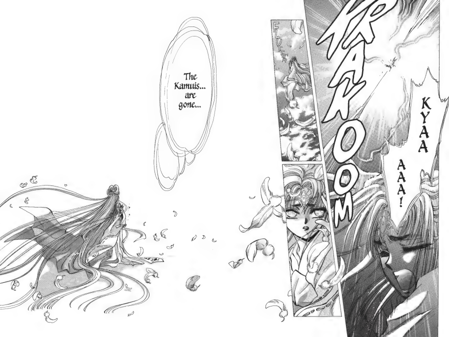

KRSH
SHAK

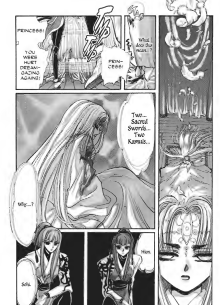

There are two Kamuis!

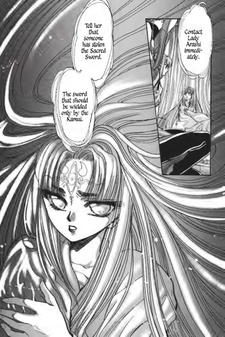

SHLKK
SHLUK
SHLUK
SKLUUP
SHLP
SHLKK
FWAP

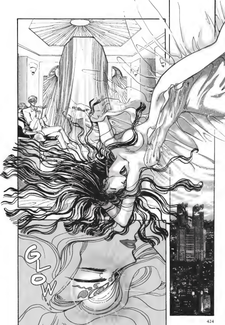

Wings...

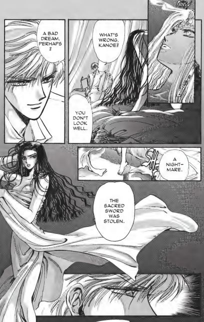

BAM
FLAP
KR
ANG

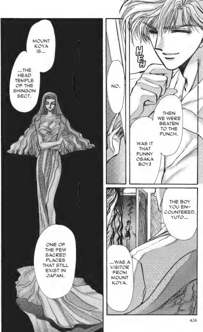

KRAKOOM
KYAA AAA!
FLUTTER
The Kamuis... are gone...

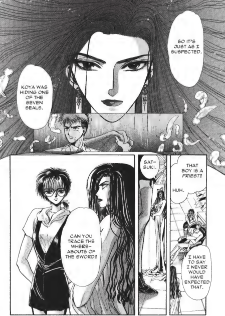

STAB
What does this mean...?
PRIN-CESS!
FLIP FLIP
PRINCESS!
YOU WERE HURT DREAM-GAZING AGAIN?!
Two... Sacred Swords... Two Kamuis...
Why...?
Hien.
Sohi.

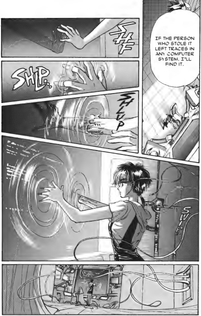

Contact Lady Arashi immediately.
Tell her that someone has stolen the Sacred Sword.
The sword that should be wielded only by the Kamui.

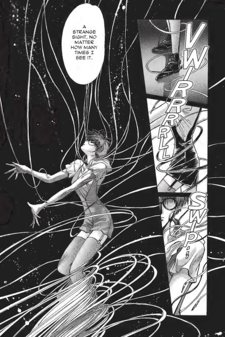

GLOW

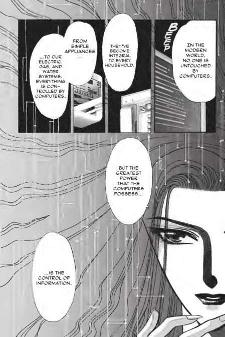

WHAT'S WRONG, KANOE?
YOU DON'T LOOK WELL.
A BAD DREAM, PERHAPS?
A NIGHTMARE.
THE SACRED SWORD WAS STOLEN.

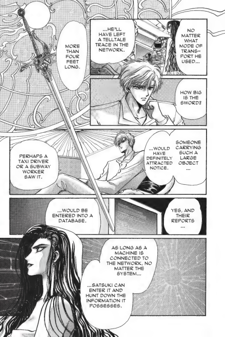

HEH
THEN WE WERE BEATEN TO THE PUNCH.
WAS IT THAT FUNNY OSAKA BOY?
NO.
THE BOY YOU ENCOUNTERED, YUTO...
...WAS A VISITOR FROM MOUNT KOYA.
MOUNT KOYA IS...
...THE HEAD TEMPLE OF THE SHINGON SECT.
ONE OF THE FEW SACRED PLACES THAT STILL EXIST IN JAPAN.

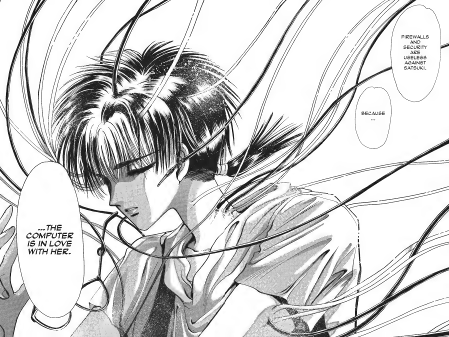

SO IT'S JUST AS I SUSPECTED.
KOYA WAS HIDING ONE OF THE SEVEN SEALS.
THAT BOY IS A *PRIEST*?!
HUH.
I HAVE TO SAY I NEVER WOULD HAVE EXPECTED *THAT*.
SATSUKI.
CAN YOU TRACE THE WHEREABOUTS OF THE SWORD?

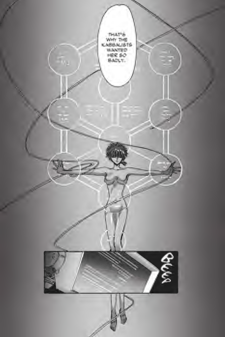

IF THE PERSON WHO STOLE IT LEFT TRACES IN ANY COMPUTER SYSTEM, I'LL FIND IT.
SHF
SHLP
SHLUP
SWIP

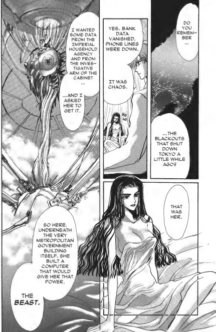

A STRANGE SIGHT, NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES I SEE IT.
VWIRRRRLL
SWIP...

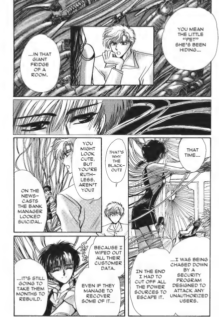

BEEP
IN THE MODERN WORLD, NO ONE IS UNTOUCHED BY COMPUTERS.
THEY'VE BECOME INTEGRAL TO EVERY HOUSEHOLD.
FROM SIMPLE APPLIANCES ...
...TO OUR ELECTRIC, GAS, AND WATER SYSTEMS. EVERYTHING IS CONTROLLED BY COMPUTERS.
BUT THE GREATEST POWER THAT THE COMPUTERS POSSESS...
...IS THE CONTROL OF INFORMATION.

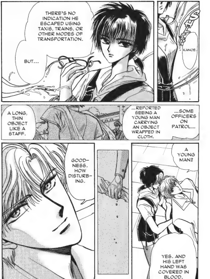

NO MATTER WHAT MODE OF TRANSPORT HE USED...
...HE'LL HAVE LEFT A TELLTALE TRACE IN THE NETWORK.
HOW BIG IS THE SWORD?
MORE THAN FOUR FEET LONG.
SOMEONE CARRYING SUCH A LARGE OBJECT ...
...WOULD HAVE DEFINITELY ATTRACTED NOTICE.
PERHAPS A TAXI DRIVER OR A SUBWAY WORKER SAW IT.
YES, AND THEIR REPORTS ...
...WOULD BE ENTERED INTO A DATABASE.
AS LONG AS A MACHINE IS CONNECTED TO THE NETWORK, NO MATTER THE SYSTEM...
...SATSUKI CAN ENTER IT AND HUNT DOWN THE INFORMATION IT POSSESSES.

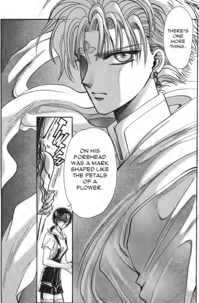

FIREWALLS AND SECURITY ARE USELESS AGAINST SATSUKI.
BECAUSE ...
...THE COMPUTER IS IN LOVE WITH HER.

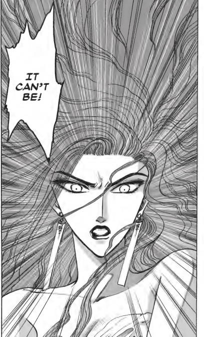

THAT'S WHY THE KABBALISTS WANTED HER SO BADLY.
BEEP

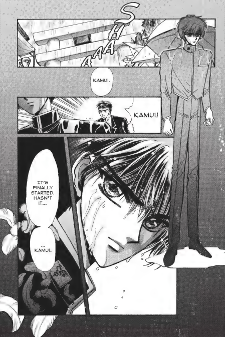

DO YOU REMEMBER ...
...THE BLACKOUTS THAT SHUT DOWN TOKYO A LITTLE WHILE AGO?
YES. BANK DATA VANISHED, PHONE LINES WERE DOWN.
IT WAS CHAOS.
Ha ha
I WANTED SOME DATA FROM THE IMPERIAL HOUSEHOLD AGENCY AND FROM THE INVESTIGATIVE ARM OF THE CABINET ...
...AND I ASKED HER TO GET IT.
THAT WAS HER.
SO HERE, UNDERNEATH THE VERY METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT BUILDING ITSELF, SHE BUILT A COMPUTER THAT WOULD GIVE HER THAT POWER.
THE *BEAST.*

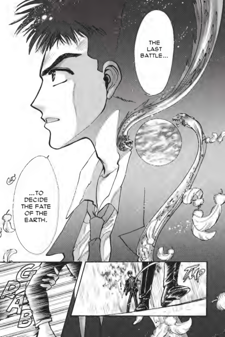

YOU MEAN THE LITTLE "PET" SHE'S BEEN HIDING...
...IN THAT GIANT FRIDGE OF A ROOM.
THAT TIME...
...I WAS BEING CHASED DOWN BY A SECURITY PROGRAM DESIGNED TO ATTACK ANY UNAUTHORIZED USERS.
IN THE END I HAD TO CUT OFF ALL THE POWER SOURCES TO ESCAPE IT.
THAT'S WHY THE BLACK-OUT?
YOU MIGHT LOOK CUTE, BUT YOU'RE RUTHLESS, AREN'T YOU?
ON THE NEWSCASTS THE BANK MANAGER LOOKED SUICIDAL.
SMILE
BECAUSE I WIPED OUT ALL THEIR CUSTOMER DATA.
EVEN IF THEY MANAGE TO RECOVER SOME OF IT...
...IT'S STILL GOING TO TAKE THEM MONTHS TO REBUILD.

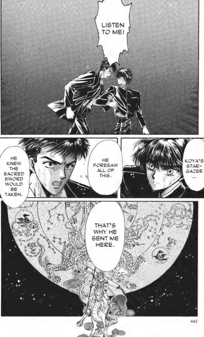

KANOE.
THERE'S NO INDICATION HE ESCAPED USING TAXIS, TRAINS, OR OTHER MODES OF TRANSPORTATION.
BUT...
...SOME OFFICERS ON PATROL...
...REPORTED SEEING A YOUNG MAN CARRYING AN OBJECT WRAPPED IN CLOTH.
A LONG, THIN OBJECT LIKE A STAFF.
A YOUNG MAN?
YES. AND HIS LEFT HAND WAS COVERED IN BLOOD.
GOODNESS. HOW DISTURBING.

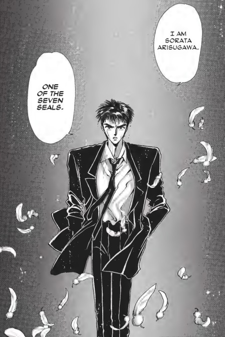

THERE'S ONE MORE THING.
ON HIS FOREHEAD WAS A MARK SHAPED LIKE THE PETALS OF A FLOWER.
TH-THUMP

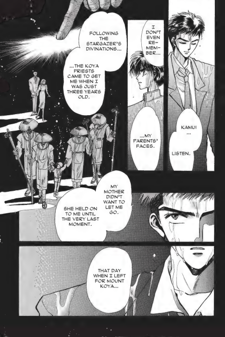

IT CAN'T BE!

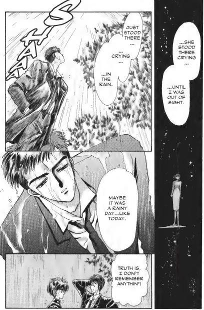

SHHAAAA
KAMUI.
KAMUI!
IT'S FINALLY STARTED, HASN'T IT...
... KAMUI.

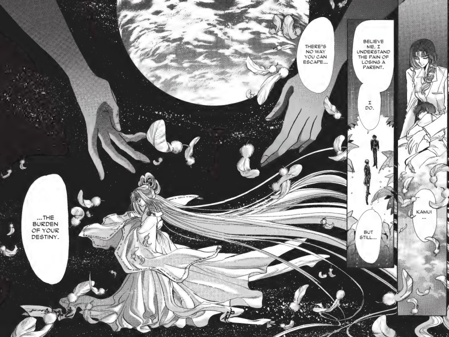

THE LAST BATTLE...
...TO DECIDE THE FATE OF THE EARTH.
TMP
GRAB

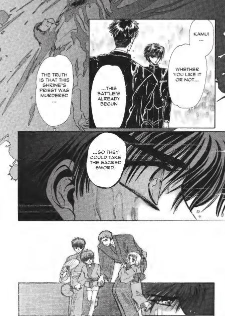

LISTEN TO ME!
KOYA'S STAR-GAZER ...
HE FORESAW ALL OF THIS.
HE KNEW THE SACRED SWORD WOULD BE TAKEN.
THAT'S WHY HE SENT ME HERE.

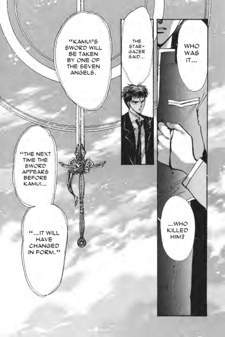

I AM SORATA ARISUGAWA.
ONE OF THE SEVEN SEALS.

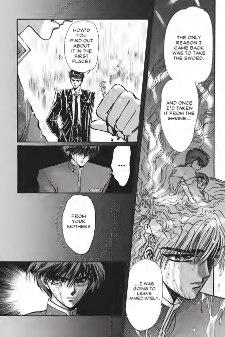

I DON'T EVEN REMEMBER...
...MY PARENTS' FACES.
KAMUI...
LISTEN.
FOLLOWING THE STARGAZER'S DIVINATIONS...
...THE KOYA PRIESTS CAME TO GET ME WHEN I WAS JUST THREE YEARS OLD.
MY MOTHER DIDN'T WANT TO LET ME GO.
SHE HELD ON TO ME UNTIL THE VERY LAST MOMENT.
THAT DAY WHEN I LEFT FOR MOUNT KOYA...

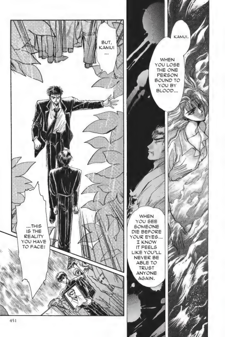

SHAAA
JUST STOOD THERE ---
... CRYING ---
...IN THE RAIN.
...SHE STOOD THERE CRYING ...
...UNTIL I WAS OUT OF SIGHT.
MAYBE IT WAS A RAINY DAY...LIKE TODAY.
TRUTH IS, I DON'T REMEMBER ANYTHIN'!

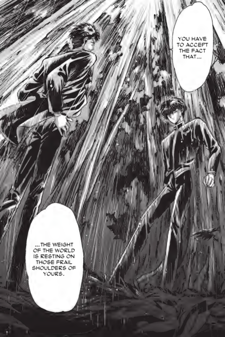

KAMUI ...
BELIEVE ME, I UNDERSTAND THE PAIN OF LOSING A PARENT.
I DO.
BUT STILL...
THERE'S NO WAY YOU CAN ESCAPE...
...THE BURDEN OF YOUR DESTINY.

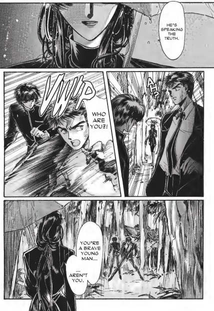

KAMUI ...
WHETHER YOU LIKE IT OR NOT...
...THIS BATTLE'S ALREADY BEGUN
THE TRUTH IS THAT THIS SHRINE'S PRIEST WAS MURDERED ...
...SO THEY COULD TAKE THE SACRED SWORD.

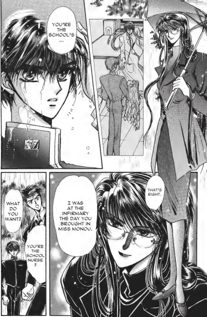

WHO WAS IT...
...WHO KILLED HIM?
THE STARGAZER SAID...
"KAMUI'S SWORD WILL BE TAKEN BY ONE OF THE SEVEN ANGELS.
"THE NEXT TIME THE SWORD APPEARS BEFORE KAMUI...
"...IT WILL HAVE CHANGED IN FORM."

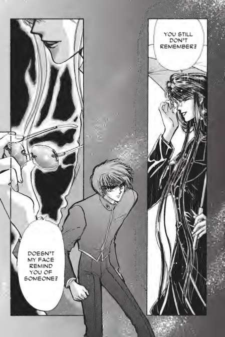

THE ONLY REASON I CAME BACK WAS TO TAKE THE SWORD.
AND ONCE I'D TAKEN IT FROM THE SHRINE...
HOW'D YOU FIND OUT ABOUT IT IN THE FIRST PLACE?
...
FROM YOUR MOTHER?
...I WAS GOING TO LEAVE IMMEDIATELY.

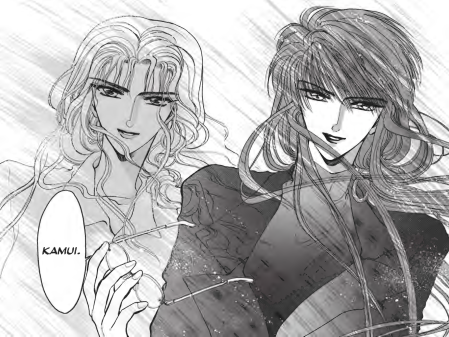

KAMUI.
WHEN YOU LOSE THE ONE PERSON BOUND TO YOU BY BLOOD...
WHEN YOU SEE SOMEONE DIE BEFORE YOUR EYES... I KNOW IT FEELS LIKE YOU'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO TRUST ANYONE AGAIN.
BUT, KAMUI...
...THIS IS THE REALITY YOU HAVE TO FACE!

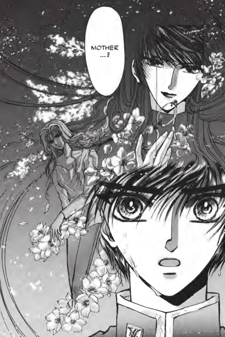

YOU HAVE TO ACCEPT THE FACT THAT...
...THE WEIGHT OF THE WORLD IS RESTING ON THOSE FRAIL SHOULDERS OF YOURS.

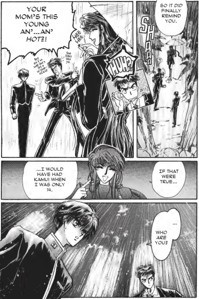

HE'S SPEAKING THE TRUTH.
AH?!
VWIP
WHO ARE YOU?!
YOU'RE A BRAVE YOUNG MAN...
...AREN'T YOU.

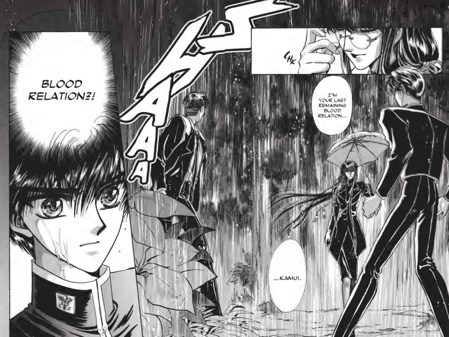

YOU'RE THE SCHOOL'S ...
THAT'S RIGHT.
I WAS AT THE INFIRMARY THE DAY YOU BROUGHT IN MISS MONOU.
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
YOU'RE THE SCHOOL NURSE?

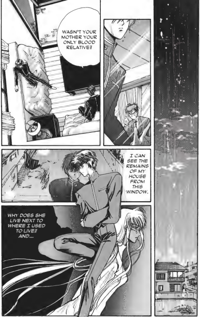

YOU STILL DON'T REMEMBER?
DOESN'T MY FACE REMIND YOU OF SOMEONE?

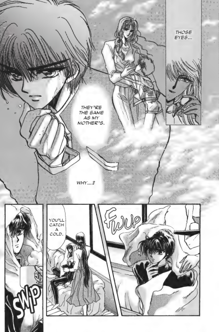

KAMUI.

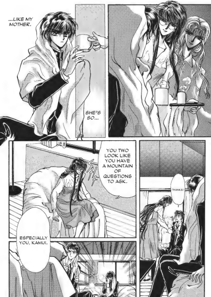

MOTHER
...?

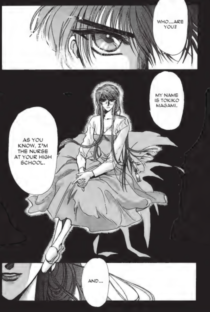

SO IT *DID* FINALLY REMIND YOU.
SHAAA
HUH?!
YOUR MOM'S THIS YOUNG AN'...AN' *HOT*?!
HEE HEE
She looks like ya.
But ain't no way she's got a 15-year-old kid!
IF THAT WERE TRUE...
...I WOULD HAVE HAD KAMUI WHEN I WAS ONLY 14.
... WHO ARE YOU?

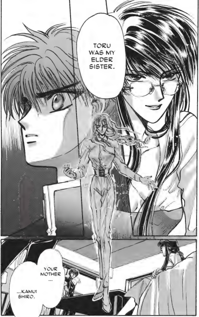

CHK
I'M YOUR LAST REMAINING BLOOD RELATION...
...KAMUI.
KAAAA
BLOOD RELATION?!

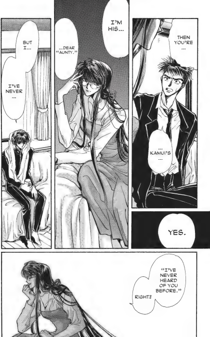

WASN'T YOUR MOTHER YOUR ONLY BLOOD RELATIVE?
I CAN SEE THE REMAINS OF MY HOUSE FROM THIS WINDOW.
WHY DOES SHE LIVE NEXT TO WHERE I USED TO LIVE? AND....

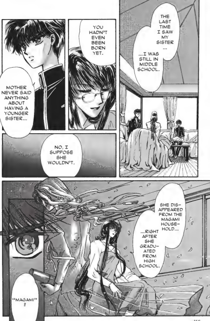

THOSE EYES...
THEY'RE THE SAME AS MY MOTHER'S.
WHY...?
FWUP
YOU'LL CATCH A COLD.
SWIP

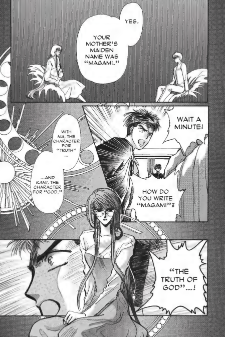

SHE'S SO...
...LIKE MY MOTHER.
THANKS!
YOU TWO LOOK LIKE YOU HAVE A MOUNTAIN OF QUESTIONS TO ASK.
SHF
ESPECIALLY YOU, KAMUI.

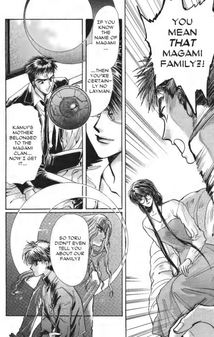

WHO...ARE YOU?
MY NAME IS TOKIKO MAGAMI.
AS YOU KNOW, I'M THE NURSE AT YOUR HIGH SCHOOL.
AND...

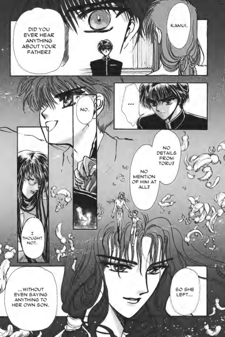

TORU WAS MY ELDER SISTER.
YOUR MOTHER ...
...KAMUI SHIRO.

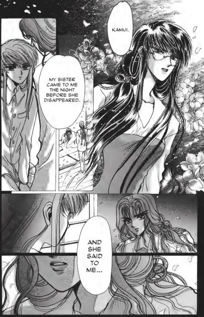

THEN YOU'RE ---
... KAMUI'S ---
I'M HIS...
...DEAR "AUNTY."
BUT I...
I'VE NEVER ---
YES.
"I'VE NEVER HEARD OF YOU BEFORE." RIGHT?

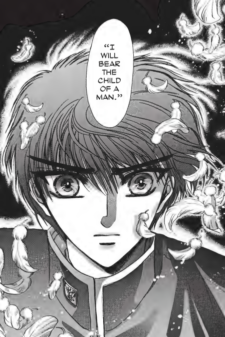

THE LAST TIME I SAW MY SISTER ...
...I WAS STILL IN MIDDLE SCHOOL.
YOU HADN'T EVEN BEEN BORN YET.
MOTHER NEVER SAID ANYTHING ABOUT HAVING A YOUNGER SISTER...
NO, I SUPPOSE SHE WOULDN'T.
SHE DISAPPEARED FROM THE MAGAMI HOUSEHOLD...
...RIGHT AFTER SHE GRADUATED FROM HIGH SCHOOL.
"MAGAMI" ?

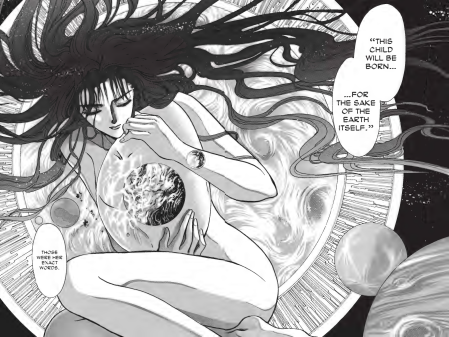

YES.
YOUR MOTHER'S MAIDEN NAME WAS "MAGAMI."
WAIT A MINUTE!
HOW DO YOU WRITE "MAGAMI"?
WITH MA, THE CHARACTER FOR "TRUTH" ...
...AND KAMI, THE CHARACTER FOR "GOD."
"THE TRUTH OF GOD"...!

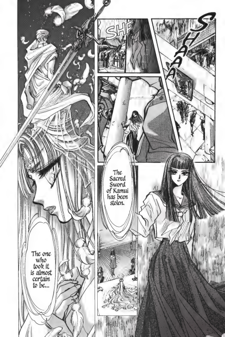

YOU MEAN *THAT* MAGAMI FAMILY?!
IF YOU KNOW THE NAME OF MAGAMI ...
...THEN YOU'RE CERTAINLY NO LAYMAN.
KAMUI'S MOTHER BELONGED TO THE MAGAMI CLAN... *NOW* I GET IT...
SO TORU DIDN'T EVEN TELL YOU ABOUT OUR FAMILY?

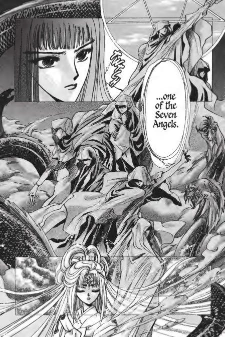

KAMUI.
DID YOU EVER HEAR ANYTHING ABOUT YOUR FATHER?
...
NO.
NO DETAILS FROM TORU?
NO MENTION OF HIM AT ALL?
I THOUGHT NOT.
SO SHE LEFT...
...WITHOUT EVEN SAYING ANYTHING TO HER OWN SON.

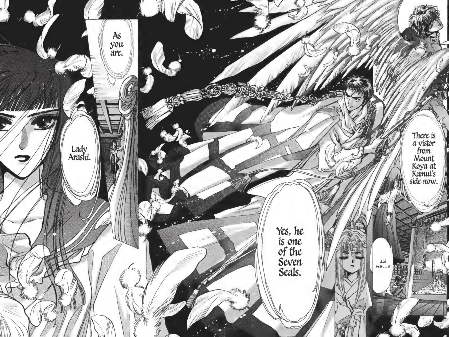

KAMUI.
MY SISTER CAME TO ME THE NIGHT BEFORE SHE DISAPPEARED.
AND SHE SAID TO ME...

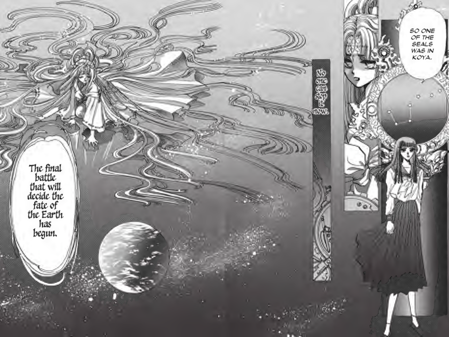

"I WILL BEAR THE CHILD OF A MAN."

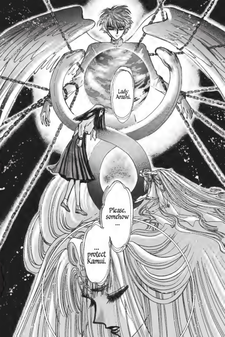

"THIS CHILD WILL BE BORN...
...FOR THE SAKE OF THE EARTH ITSELF."
THOSE WERE HER EXACT WORDS.

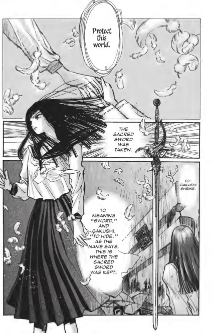

SHAAA
SHF
The Sacred Sword of Kamui has been stolen.
The one who took it is almost certain to be...

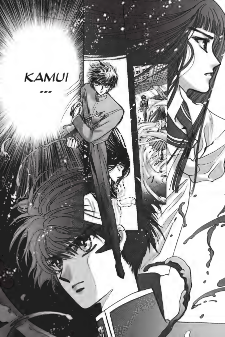

...one of the Seven Angels.

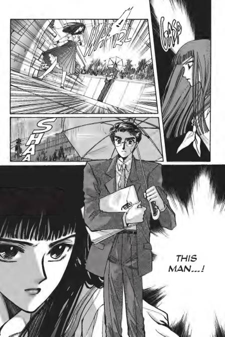

There is a vistor from Mount Koya at Kamui's side now.
IS HE...?
Yes, he is one of the Seven Seals.
As you are.
Lady Arashi.

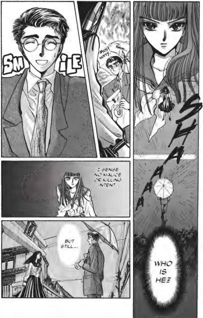

SO ONE OF THE SEALS WAS IN KOYA.
No one can stop it now.
The final battle that will decide the fate of the Earth has begun.

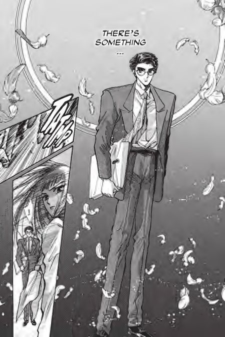

Lady Arashi.
Please, somehow ...
... protect Kamui.

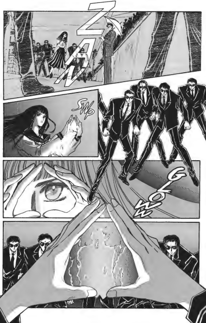

Protect this world.
THE SACRED SWORD WAS TAKEN.
TO-GAKUSHI SHRINE.
TO, MEANING "SWORD," AND GAKUSHI, "TO HIDE." AS THE NAME SAYS, THIS IS WHERE THE SACRED SWORD WAS KEPT.

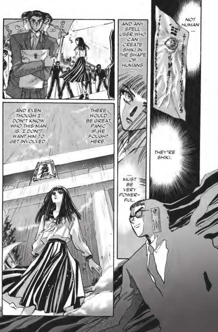

KAMUI
...

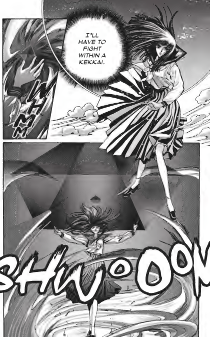

GASP
WHIRL
SHAA
THIS MAN...!

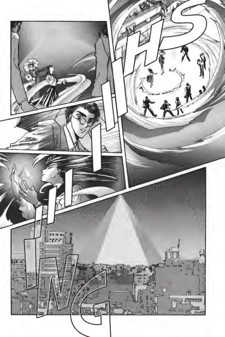

Hmm...
Must hurry.
SMILE
SHAAAAAAA
I SENSE NO MALICE OR KILLING INTENT.
BUT STILL...
WHO IS HE?

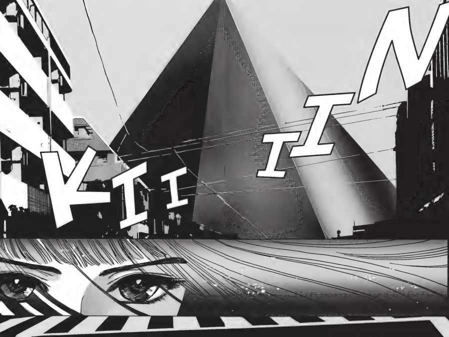

THERE'S SOMETHING
...
TAMP

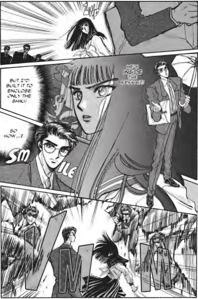

ZAN
SWP
GLOW

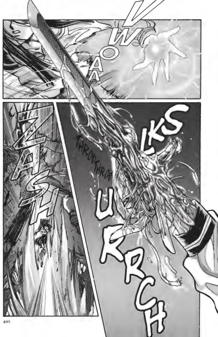

NOT HUMAN ...
THEY'RE SHIKI.
AND ANY SPELL USER WHO CAN CREATE SHIKI IN THE SHAPE OF HUMANS ...
... MUST BE VERY POWERFUL.
THERE WOULD BE GREAT PANIC IF WE FOUGHT HERE.
AND EVEN THOUGH I DON'T KNOW WHO THIS MAN IS, I DON'T WANT HIM TO GET INVOLVED.

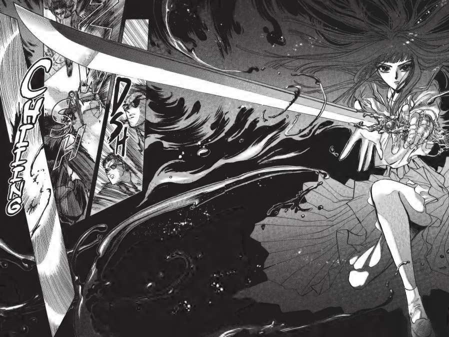

I'LL HAVE TO FIGHT WITHIN A KEKKAI.
WHMM
SHWOOOM

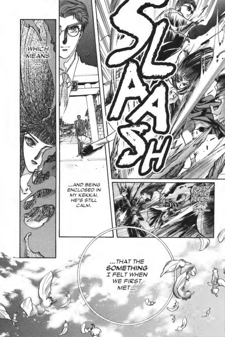

SHIIIIIIING

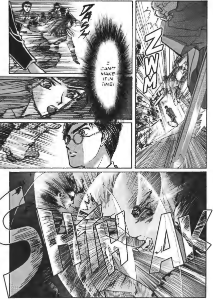

KIIIIIN

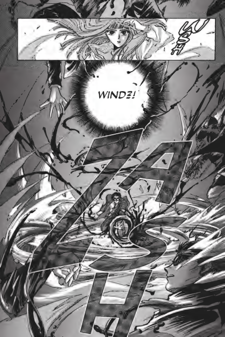

ZWOP
HE'S INSIDE THE KEKKAI!?
BUT I'D BUILT IT TO ENCLOSE ONLY THE SHIKI!!
SO HOW...?
SMILE
VMMM

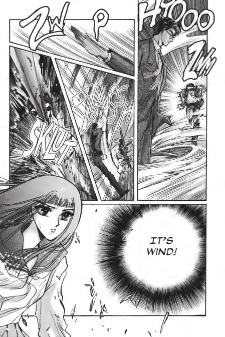

VWOAA
LKS
THROB THROB
ZASH
URRCH

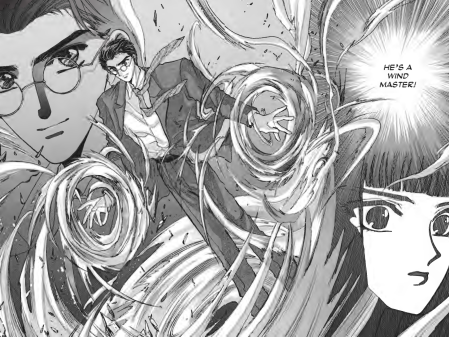

DSH
SH
CHIIING

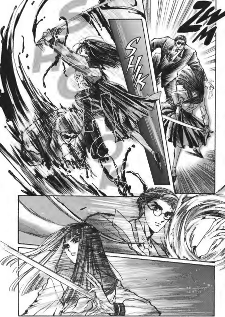

SLASH
EVEN AFTER SEEING THE SHIKI...
...AND BEING ENCLOSED IN MY KEKKAI, HE'S STILL CALM.
WHICH MEANS ...
...THAT THE SOMETHING I FELT WHEN WE FIRST MET...

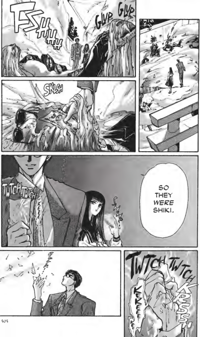

DASH
ZWM
I CAN'T MAKE IT IN TIME!
SHHAK

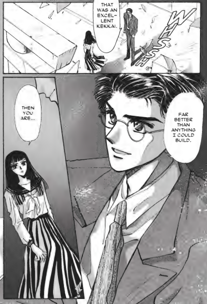

VUSH
WIND?!
ZASH

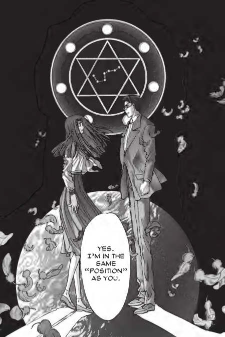

HYOOO
ZIM
ZW P
ZASSH
SKLUT
IT'S WIND!

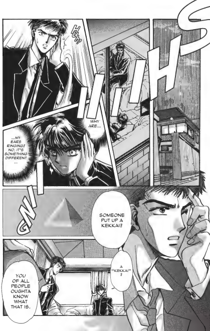

HE'S A WIND MASTER!

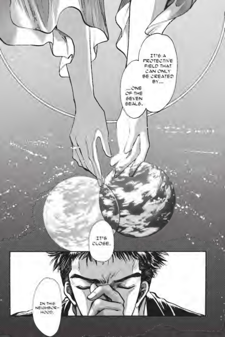

ZWM
SHIK
SHOCK

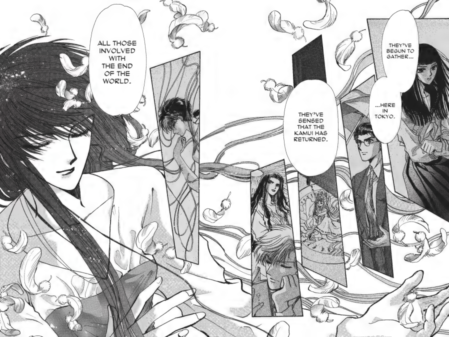

FSSHHH
GLUP GLUP
SKISH
SO THEY *WERE* SHIKI.
TWITCH TWITCH
KEEE
TWTCH TWTCH
KRSSH
KEKEEE

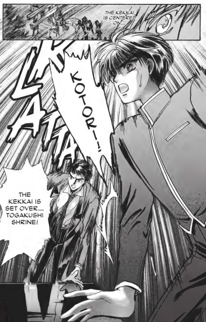

THAT WAS AN EXCELLENT KEKKAI.
WHSSSH
FAR BETTER THAN ANYTHING I COULD BUILD.
THEN YOU ARE...

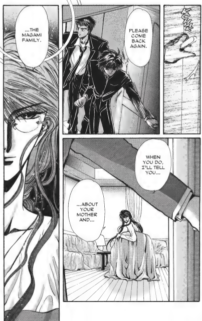

YES. I'M IN THE SAME "POSITION" AS YOU.

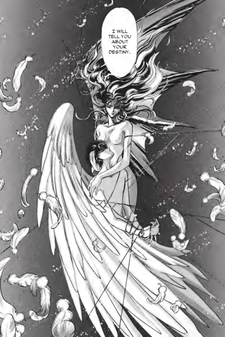

SHIIIIING
Huh?
WHY ARE...
...MY EARS RINGING? NO, IT'S SOMETHING DIFFERENT ...
SOMEONE PUT UP A KEKKAI?
A "KEKKAI"?
YOU OF ALL PEOPLE OUGHTA KNOW WHAT THAT IS.

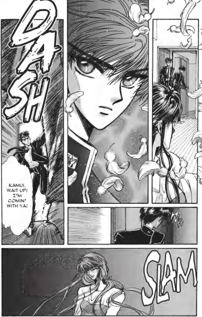

IT'S A PROTECTIVE FIELD THAT CAN ONLY BE CREATED BY...
...ONE OF THE SEVEN SEALS.
IT'S CLOSE.
IN THIS NEIGHBORHOOD.

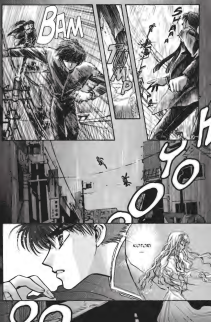

THEY'VE BEGUN TO GATHER...
...HERE IN TOKYO.
THEY'VE SENSED THAT THE KAMUI HAS RETURNED.
ALL THOSE INVOLVED WITH THE END OF THE WORLD.

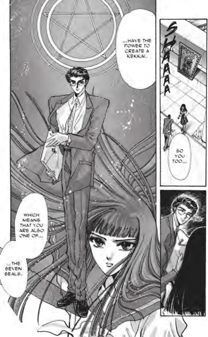

THE KEKKAI IS CENTERED ON...
KOTORI!!
THE KEKKAI IS SET OVER... TOGAKUSHI SHRINE!

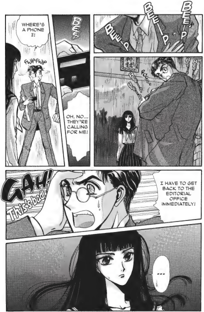

KCHAK
PLEASE COME BACK AGAIN.
...THE MAGAMI FAMILY.
WHEN YOU DO, I'LL TELL YOU...
...ABOUT YOUR MOTHER AND...

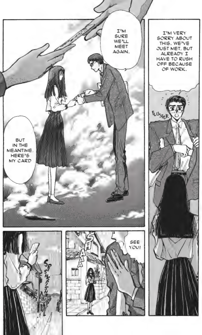

I WILL TELL YOU ABOUT YOUR DESTINY.

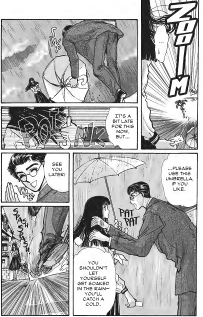

DASH
KAMUI, WAIT UP! I'M COMIN' WITH YA!
SLAM

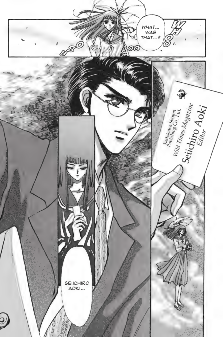

SHAAA
THUMP
BAM
HYOOOO
KOTORI
...
OO

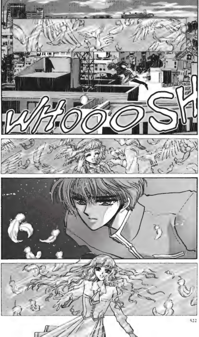

SHAAAA
SO YOU TOO...
...HAVE THE POWER TO CREATE A KEKKAI...
WHICH MEANS THAT YOU ARE ALSO ONE OF...
...THE SEVEN SEALS...

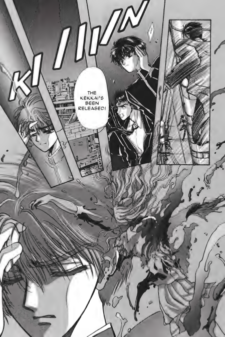

BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
RUSTLE
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
OH, NO... THEY'RE CALLING FOR ME!
WHERE'S A PHONE ?!
FWIPFWIP
I HAVE TO GET BACK TO THE EDITORIAL OFFICE IMMEDIATELY!
GAH! This's bad!
...
...

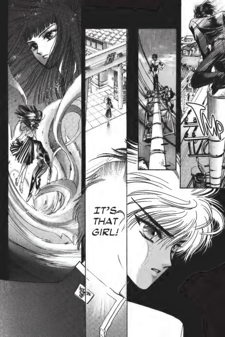

I'M VERY SORRY ABOUT THIS. WE'VE JUST MET, BUT ALREADY I HAVE TO RUSH OFF BECAUSE OF WORK.
FLUSTER
I'M SURE WE'LL MEET AGAIN.
BUT IN THE MEANTIME, HERE'S MY CARD
SEE YOU!
SHAAA
SP SHRISH

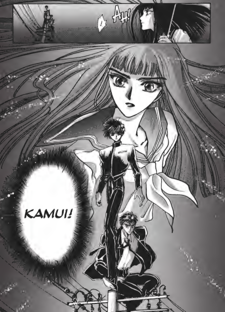

ZOOM
...
SWP
IT'S A BIT LATE FOR THIS NOW, BUT...
BOINK
...PLEASE USE THIS UMBRELLA, IF YOU LIKE.
PAT PAT
YOU SHOULDN'T LET YOURSELF GET SOAKED IN THE RAIN—YOU'LL CATCH A COLD.
SEE YOU LATER!
WAVE
SPLASH SPLASH

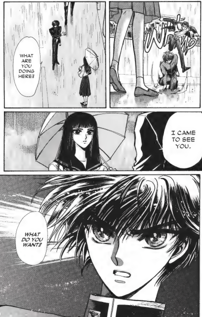

WHOOO
WHAT... WAS THAT...?
Kadokawa Shoten Publishing Co. Ltd.
Wild Times Magazine
Seiichiro Aoki
Editor
SEIICHIRO AOKI...

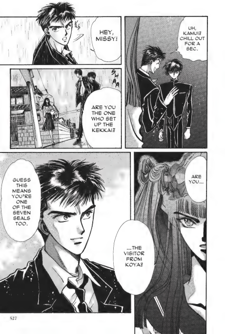

WHOOOSH

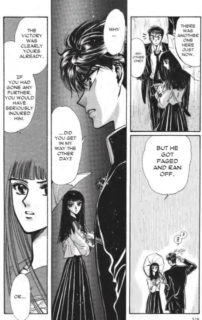

KI IIIN
!
THE KEKKAI'S BEEN RELEASED!

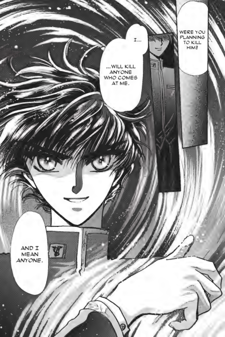

TMP
IT'S THAT GIRL!

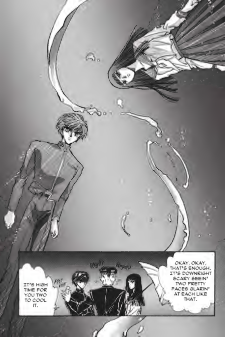

AH!
!
KAMUI!

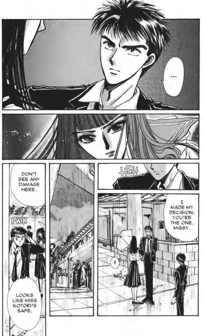

Whup
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
I CAME TO SEE YOU.
WHAT DO YOU WANT?

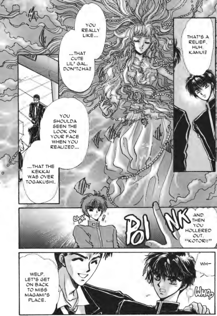

UH, KAMUI? CHILL OUT FOR A SEC.
HEY, MISSY!
SHA
ARE YOU THE ONE WHO SET UP THE KEKKAI?
ARE YOU...
...THE VISITOR FROM KOYA?
GUESS THIS MEANS YOU'RE ONE OF THE SEVEN SEALS TOO.

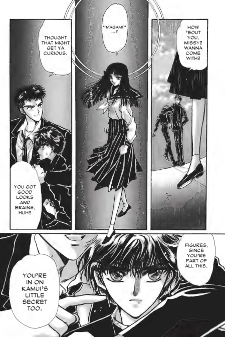

THERE WAS ANOTHER ONE HERE JUST NOW.
ANOTHER ONE?
BUT HE GOT PAGED AND RAN OFF.
SCRATCH
?
WHY ...
...DID YOU GET IN MY WAY THE OTHER DAY?
THE VICTORY WAS CLEARLY YOURS ALREADY.
IF YOU HAD GONE ANY FURTHER, YOU WOULD HAVE SERIOUSLY INJURED HIM.
OR...

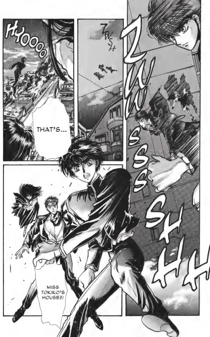

WERE YOU PLANNING TO KILL HIM?
I...
...WILL KILL ANYONE WHO COMES AT ME.
AND I MEAN *ANYONE*.

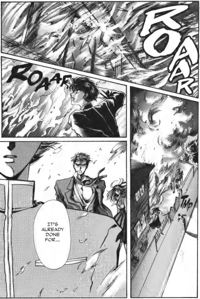

OKAY, OKAY, THAT'S ENOUGH. IT'S DOWNRIGHT SCARY SEEIN' TWO PRETTY FACES GLARIN' AT EACH LIKE THAT.
Riiight
Riiight
Pat pat
IT'S HIGH TIME FOR YOU TWO TO COOL IT.

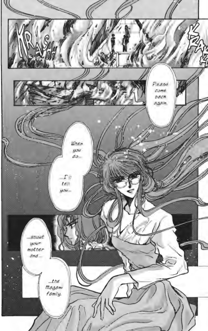

...
HEH
I MADE MY DECISION. YOU'RE THE ONE, MISSY.
?
DON'T SEE ANY DAMAGE HERE.
PWK
LOOKS LIKE MISS KOTORI'S SAFE.

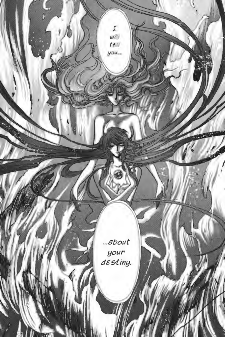

THAT'S A RELIEF, HUH, KAMUI?
YOU REALLY LIKE...
...THAT CUTE LIL' GAL, DON'TCHA?
YOU SHOULDA SEEN THE LOOK ON YOUR FACE WHEN YOU REALIZED...
...THAT THE KEKKAI WAS OVER TOGAKUSHI.
AND THEN YOU HOLLERED OUT, "KOTORI!"
POINK
URK !
WH—
WHAP
WELP. LET'S GET ON BACK TO MISS MAGAMI'S PLACE.

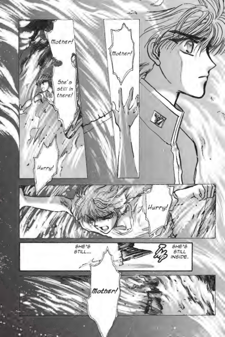

HOW 'BOUT YOU, MISSY? WANNA COME WITH?
"MAGAMI!" ...?
THOUGHT THAT MIGHT GET YA CURIOUS.
YOU GOT GOOD LOOKS AND BRAINS, HUH?
FIGURES, SINCE YOU'RE PART OF ALL THIS.
YOU'RE IN ON KAMUI'S LITTLE SECRET TOO.

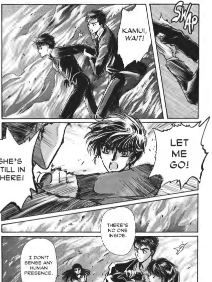

ZWWSSSSHHH
ZWSH
HYOOOO
THAT'S...
MISS TOKIKO'S HOUSE?!

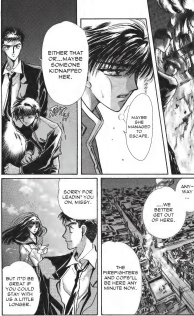

ROAAR
ROAAR
TMP
IT'S ALREADY DONE FOR...

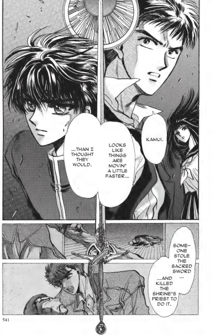

KRAK
KRASHH
Please come back again.
When you do...
...I'll tell you...
...about your mother and...
...the Magami family.

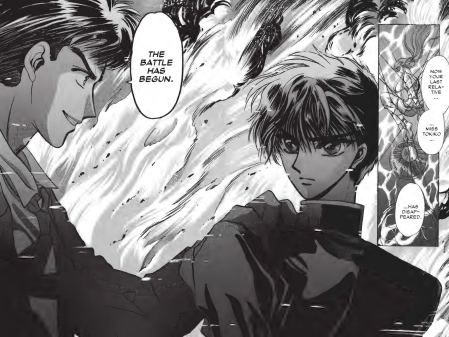

I will tell you...
...about your destiny.

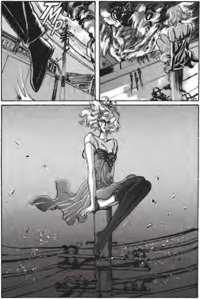

Mother!
Mother!
She's still in there!
Hurry!
Hurry!
SHE'S STILL INSIDE.
SHE'S STILL...
Mother!

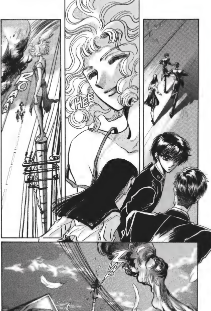

SWAP
KAMUI, WAIT!
LET ME GO!
SHE'S STILL IN THERE!
THERE'S NO ONE INSIDE.
I DON'T SENSE ANY HUMAN PRESENCE.

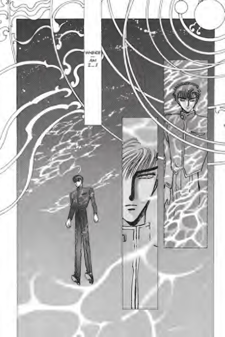

MAYBE SHE MANAGED TO ESCAPE.
EITHER THAT OR...MAYBE SOMEONE KIDNAPPED HER.
TWITCH
ANY-WAY...
...WE BETTER GET OUT OF HERE.
THE FIREFIGHTERS AND COPS'LL BE HERE ANY MINUTE NOW.
SORRY FOR LEADIN' YOU ON, MISSY.
BUT IT'D BE GREAT IF YOU COULD STAY WITH US A LITTLE LONGER.

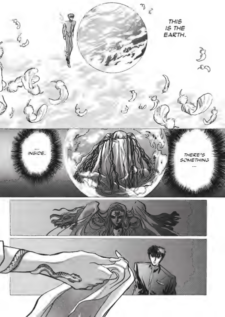

KAMUI.
LOOKS LIKE THINGS ARE MOVIN' A LITTLE FASTER...
...THAN I THOUGHT THEY WOULD.
SOMEONE STOLE THE SACRED SWORD ---
...AND KILLED THE SHRINE'S PRIEST TO DO IT.

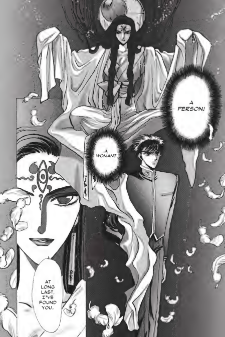

NOW YOUR LAST RELATIVE ...
... MISS TOKIKO ...
...HAS DISAPPEARED.
THE BATTLE HAS BEGUN.

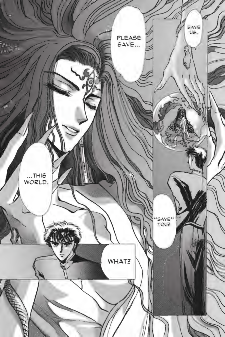

TMP
ROA

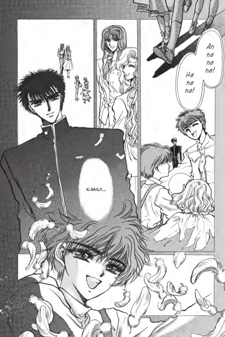

ROAAAR
HEE
ZWOP

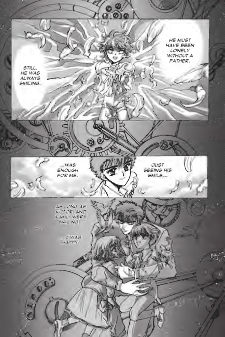

WHICH
—
AH!
I...!

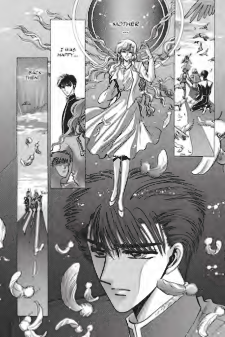

THIS IS THE EARTH.
THERE'S SOMETHING ...
... INSIDE.

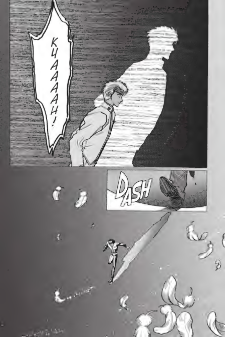

A PERSON!
A WOMAN?
AT LONG LAST, I'VE FOUND YOU.

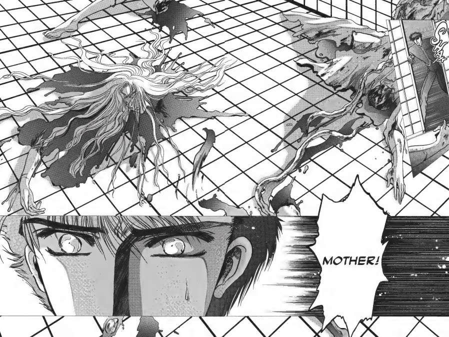

SAVE US.
PLEASE SAVE...
...THIS WORLD.
"SAVE" YOU?
WHAT?

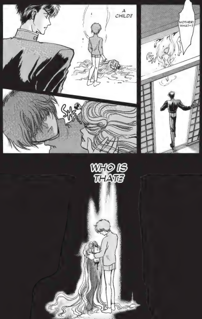

Ah ha ha ha!
Ha ha ha!
KAMUI...

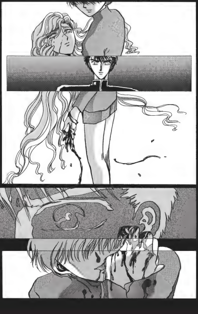

HE MUST HAVE BEEN LONELY WITHOUT A FATHER.
STILL, HE WAS ALWAYS SMILING...
JUST SEEING HIS SMILE...
...WAS ENOUGH FOR ME.
AS LONG AS KOTORI AND KAMUI WERE SMILING,
I WAS HAPPY.

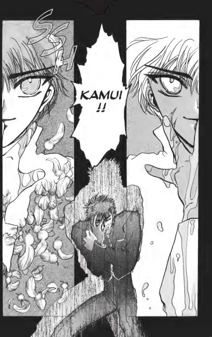

MOTHER
...
I WAS HAPPY...
...BACK THEN.

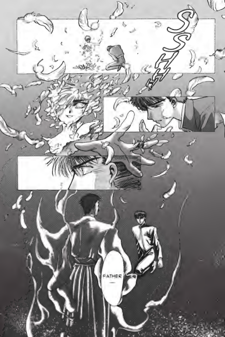

KYAAAAAH!
DASH

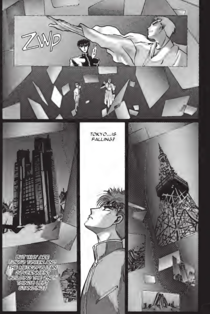

SHAK
MOTHER!

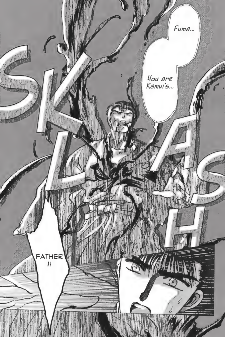

MOTHER! WHAT—!?
FSH
A CHILD?
SHE
WHO IS THAT?

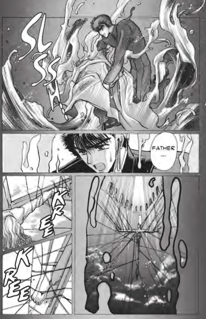


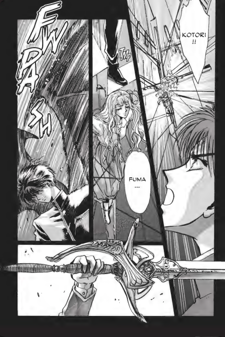

SSH
KAMUI !!

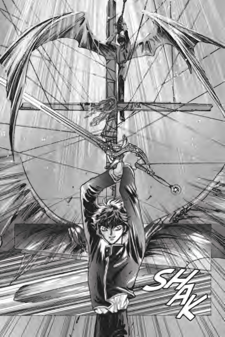

SSHHH
FATHER —

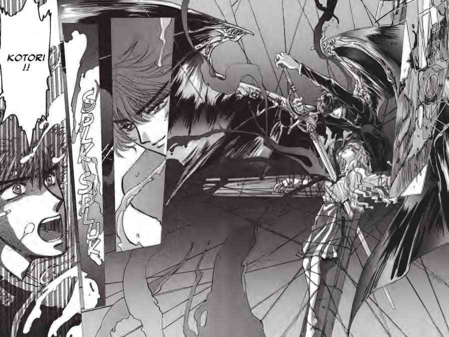

ZWP
TOKYO... IS FALLING?
BUT WHY ARE TOKYO TOWER AND THE METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT BUILDING THE ONLY THINGS LEFT STANDING?

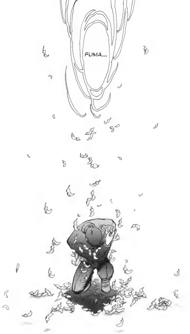

Fuma...
You are Kamui's...
SKLASH
FATHER !!

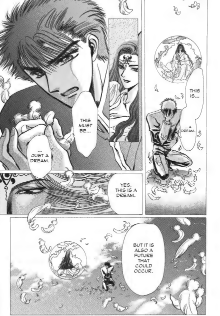

SLSSH
FATHER
...
KREE
KREE

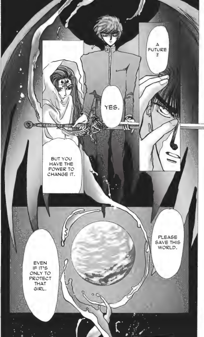

KOTORI !!
TMP
FWDASH
FUMA ...

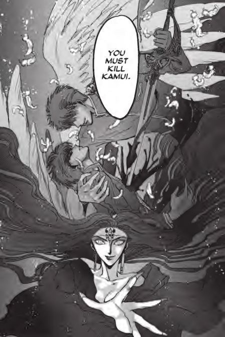

SHAK

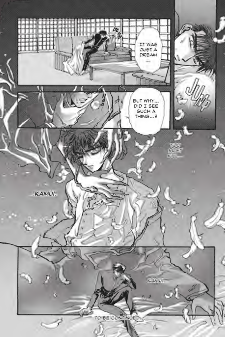

SPLK SPLUK
KOTORI !!


FUMA...


THIS IS...
...A DREAM.
THIS MUST BE...
...JUST A DREAM.
YES, THIS IS A DREAM.
BUT IT IS ALSO A FUTURE THAT COULD OCCUR.


A FUTURE?
YES.
BUT YOU HAVE THE POWER TO CHANGE IT.
PLEASE SAVE THIS WORLD.
EVEN IF IT'S ONLY TO PROTECT THAT GIRL.


YOU MUST KILL KAMUI.

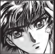

IT WAS JUST A DREAM ...
JUMP
BUT WHY... DID I SEE SUCH A THING...?
KAMUI
TO BE CONTINUED

X

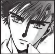
END VOLUME 1

X

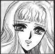
CAST OF CHARACTERS



KAMUI SHIRO
A young man possessing tremendous arcane powers, he is at the center of a prophecy concerning the end of the world.



FUMA MONOU
Kamui's childhood friend and Kotori's brother, he's very protective of both of them. He too is somehow involved in the prophecy of the world's end.



KOTORI MONOU
Fuma's little sister, and one of Kamui's closest friends when they were children. Her health is delicate due to a heart condition.

KYOGO MONOU
Fuma and Kotori's father, he is the priest of the Togakushi Shrine and guardian of the Sacred Sword.

SAYA MONOU
Fuma and Kotori's mother. She gave up her life in order to bring the Sacred Sword into being.

TORU SHIRO
Kamui's mother. A descendant of an ancient family of "Shadow Sacrifices" who have the power to avert the misfortunes of others, she sacrificed herself to protect Kamui.

TOKIKO MAGAMI
Toru's younger sister and Kamui's last surviving blood relation; she works as a nurse at his school.

HINOTO
A blind seer who is able to read the future through dreams. She has foreseen the end of the world, and her vision places Kamui at the heart of the cataclysm to come.

SOHI & HIEN
Hinoto's loyal attendants.

DAISUKE SAIKI
A young wind user devoted to Hinoto, he's initially suspicious of Kamui.

KANOE
Hinoto's younger sister, she also possesses the ability to see the future through dreams. But the destiny that she wishes to bring about is different from the one that Hinoto desires.

THE SEVEN SEALS

ARASHI KISHU
Raised in the Shinto shrine of Ise, she fights by summoning a sword from the palm of her hand.

SORATA ARISUGAWA
A priest from the Mount Koya Buddhist temple complex, he has sworn to protect Kamui with his life.

SEIICHIRO AOKI
A harried manga editor with a gentle demeanor, he is also a wind master and a skilled fighter.

THE SEVEN ANGELS

YUTO KIGAI
Working as a civil servant by day, he is a water master whose playful demeanor hides a cold-blooded essence.

SATSUKI YATOJI
A genius with computers, she shares a special bond with the machine she built, the "Beast."

NATAKU
A genetically engineered human androgyne, Nataku wields a ribbon-like length of cloth as a weapon.

NOTES ON THE TEXT

FAMILIAR

The word translated as "familiar" is *goho*, which in Japanese is written with the characters for "protect" and "dharma." As the name indicates, *goho* are spirits or minor deities that protect and serve high-level Buddhist practitioners.

KEKKAI

A magical barrier or shield. In the world of *X* there are two different types of kekkai. The first is the individual barrier fields that the Seven Seals create in order to protect their surroundings from damage during a battle. The second is a huge magical ward that protects the entire city of Tokyo.

ONMYODO, ONMYOJI

Onmyodo, or the "way of onmyo," is a school of magical practice based on the esoteric philosophies of Yin-Yang and the Five Elements (fire, earth, metal, water and wood). *Onmyoji*, or "masters of onmyo," are adepts who can use their magic to perform rites such as exorcism, purification, and divination.

SEVEN LUMINARIES

This phrase refers to both the seven days of the week and to the seven heavenly bodies of classical astronomy: the sun, moon, Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn.

SHIKI

Commonly called *shikigami*—but shortened to *shiki* in *X*—these are spirits or minor deities summoned to serve *onmyoji*. Shiki can be conjured in different ways, but the most frequently depicted method is to bind them to a paper talisman infused with spells.

SHINGON BUDDHISM

One of the major historical sects in Japan, it is considered to be one of the more mystical branches of Buddhism. It places a greater emphasis on religious experience over doctrine, and a significant aspect of its practice is the transmission of esoteric teachings. For these reasons, it is also referred to as "Esoteric Buddhism."

STARTING ARROW

A "starting arrow," or *koushi*, is an arrow with a bell-shaped whistle made of wood or horn attached to it. It would be fired to signal the start of a battle, in much the same way that a horn might be used in Western countries.

ILLUSTRATION COMMENTS

PAGE 6-7

1992 *Monthly Asuka* May issue, Title Page Illustration
Paper: Kent Paper
Lines: Holbein Color Ink (Special Black)
Color: Dr. Ph. Martin's Color Ink, modeling paste

This was a two-page spread for the title page of the very first chapter of the series. The desertification of Tokyo is an important theme, which is why the opening scene starts with it. I removed the outlines of the background art to convey the strength of the harsh sunlight.

PAGE 193

1992 *Monthly Asuka* September issue, Announcement Illustration
Paper: Kent Block
Lines: Photocopied pencil lines
Color: Dr. Ph. Martin's Color Ink, Colortone

The background of the previous announcement illustration was red, so I decided to go with white for this one. To make the "X," I pasted strips of Colortone over the image.
[Ed. Note: Colortone is a type of colored screentone; it's also sometimes called "overlay."]

PAGE 194

1993 *Monthly Asuka* March issue, Jigsaw Puzzle Illustration
Paper: Sand-textured paper
Lines: Photocopied pencil lines
Color: Acrylic gouache, Dr. Ph. Martin's Color Ink, poster color

Since this image was for a jigsaw puzzle that was a bonus giveaway in the magazine, I created distinct areas of different colors and even embedded small pieces of glass in it [*laughs*]. The theme is cherry blossoms, and the base colors are pink and purple.
[Ed. Note: Poster color is also known as "poster gouache" or "tempera paint."]

PAGE 1

1992 *Monthly Asuka* July issue, Announcement Illustration
Paper: Kent Block
Lines: Holbein Color Ink (Special Black)
Color: Dr. Ph. Martin's Color Ink

The thematic colors of the announcement illustrations back then were red and black. I wanted to make the "X" look like a slide image being projected on Kamui.

PAGE 2

1992 *Monthly Asuka* May issue, Cover Illustration
Paper: Kent Paper
Lines: Holbein Color Ink (Special Black)
Color: Dr. Ph. Martin's Color Ink

The color theme for this illustration is pink. *X* began serialization during cherry blossom season, and I had an image in my mind of Kamui together with the cherry blossoms, so that's why I drew it. He still looks naïve and naughty in this [*laughs*].

PAGE 3

1993 *Monthly Asuka* March issue, Cover Illustration
Paper: Kent Paper
Lines: Holbein Color Ink (Special Black)
Color: Dr. Ph. Martin's Color Ink

More flowers again after page 2. Kamui is out in the snow in this illustration, so the flowers are winter camellias. I drew the camellias in two separate styles: the ones on his clothes look flat, while the ones in the background look three-dimensional.

PAGE 4

1992 July, *X* Volume 1, Cover Illustration
Paper: BB Kent
Lines: Holbein Color Ink (Special Black)
Color: Acrylic gouache, airbrush, Dr. Ph. Martin's Color Ink

Red is the color theme for volume 1, so for this image I used red and black, which is a typical color combination for X. Since this illustration was for the first volume of the series, I made it a straightforward, archetypal one.

PAGE 386

1995 *Monthly Asuka* June Issue, Title Page Illustration
Paper: Parchment paper
Lines: Dr. Ph. Martin's Color Ink (Sepia)
Color: Dr. Ph. Martin's Color Ink, poster color

Parchment paper is interesting to use because the color of the stock shows through in the finished piece. Kamui and Kotori hardly have any scenes together, so I tried to at least let them be together in the illustration [*laughs*].

PAGE 387

1992 *Monthly Asuka* October Issue,
Bonus Poster Illustration
Paper: BB Kent (Rough Surface)
Lines: Holbein Color Ink (Special Black, Gray)
Color: Acrylic gouache, Dr. Ph. Martin's Color Ink, poster color, Liquitex

This image was drawn to be printed upon a rather unique type of paper; I hope it comes through in the actual printed illustration. I love drawing Kamui and Kotori together.

PAGE 388-389

1993 *Monthly Asuka* January Issue,
Title Page Illustration
Paper: Sand-textured paper
Lines: Photocopied pencil lines
Color: Dr. Ph. Martin's Color Ink

This one is the result of a bold challenge [*laughs*]. Ohkawa brought up the idea of drawing the illustration as if it were a reflection upon the water, so I did it. The texture of the paper made it fun to color the piece.

PAGE 390

1993 *Monthly Asuka* December Issue, Cover Illustration
Paper: BB Kent
Lines: PIGMA Graphic ink pen
Color: Dr. Ph. Martin's Color Ink, poster color, Liquitex

The pattern on Arashi's obi was far more difficult to do than the kimono itself [*laughs*]. But it was fun to work on. It's a pseudo-Japanese fantasy look, I guess [*laughs*].

PAGE 391

1993 January, *X* Volume 3, Cover Illustration
Paper: BB Kent
Lines: PIGMA Graphic ink pen
Color: Dr. Ph. Martin's Color Ink

Since green was the color selected to be the theme for this illustration, I immediately decided to draw a jungle [*laughs*]. I had this image in my head of Kanoe as queen of the jungle.

PAGE 195

1993 *X* Calendar Illustration
Paper: Shindanshi paper
Lines: PIGMA Graphic ink pen, brush pen
Color: Dr. Ph. Martin's Color Ink, poster color

Fuma's in the kendo club, so he's wearing a hakama. But he's holding the Sacred Sword [*laughs*]! I used the texture of the paper to create a kimono-like pattern in the background.
[Ed. Note: Shindanshi is a type of paper created to have the same roughened surface texture as traditional, handmade Japanese *washi* paper.]

PAGE 196

1996 *Monthly Asuka* February Issue, Cover Illustration
Paper: Watson Paper
Lines: Holbein Color Ink (Special Black)
Color: Dr. Ph. Martin's Color Ink, Copic marker, Liquitex

The main outline is drawn in aqueous ink, which I diluted with water before using. The background tone is a mixture of yellow and orange; because this is an illustration of Kotori I wanted it to have a warm and cute feeling.
[Ed. Note: Watson is a brand of Japanese paper good for watercolor use.]

PAGE 197

1993 *X* Calendar Illustration
Paper: BB Kent
Lines: Color pencil, pencil
Color: Dr. Ph. Martin's Color Ink

The illustration concept is the birds and Kotori together. [Ed. Note: Kotori's name means "little bird."] Most of the illustrations for this calendar were created specifically for it, so I remember drawing this in a hurry [*laughs*].

PAGE 198

1993 *X* Calendar Illustration
Paper: Feather Waltz
Lines: Holbein Color Ink (Special Black)
Color: Airbrush, Dr. Ph. Martin's Color Ink, Liquitex

My image of Hinoto. I've included all the familiar motifs in this. The colors of the illustration have been slightly altered to fit the base tone of the paper.
[Ed. Note: Feather Waltz is a brand of Japanese paper that has little, feathery white flecks embedded in it.]

PAGE 199

1992 October, *X* Volume 2, Cover Illustration
Paper: BB Kent
Lines: Holbein Color Ink (Special Black), PIGMA Graphic ink pen
Color: Dr. Ph. Martin's Color Ink, poster color

An image of Hinoto trying to scoop up the moon from water. The color scheme is purple, so I gave her eyes a tint of purple too.

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ART DIRECTION	MICK NEKOI (CLAMP)
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VERY SPECIAL THANKS	ALL OUR READERS

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X

3-IN-1 EDITION
VOL. 1
VIZ MEDIA EDITION

STORY AND ART BY **CLAMP**

TRANSLATION	**LILLIAN OLSEN**
TOUCH-UP ART & LETTERING	**ANNALIESE CHRISTMAN**
DESIGN	**FAWN LAU**
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